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People of Kabul free prisoners in front of Soviet troops

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STEEL STRIKE

Effects of secondary picketing causing anxiety to industry

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

The main steel-consuming industries are becoming increasingly concerned about the impact of intensified secondary picketing by striking steelworkers and the threat that private sector steelmakers may become embroiled in the dispute.

Developments in the dispute, which is now well into its second week and has halted all production at British Steel Corporation plants, are being closely monitored by senior officials at the Department of Industry.

Evidence suggests that most users have at least three weeks' stock of steel in hand at normal opening levels. Those supplies are being kept topped up with deliveries from the stockholding trade and from private sector producers who have links with industrial customers.

The private sector accounts for about a quarter of United Kingdom steel production and has not been involved in the dispute so far, although some companies have been picketed. The independent sector is a customer and competitor of the steel corporation in certain steel products. Works have managed to maintain production, although the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation has said it will take action against companies that seek to make good shortfalls arising from the shutdown of corporation plants.

Threat of all-out Welsh coal strike recedes

From David Nicholson-Lord

Cardiff

The threat of an all-out strike in the Welsh coalfield receded yesterday after miners' leaders agreed on a compromise formula involving contingency powers for taking industrial action.

The formula was agreed unanimously at a meeting of pithead delegates and will be recommended to mass meetings of the 27,000 miners in South Wales over the weekend.

If it seems certain, it is backed by the membership, the National Union of Mineworkers will press for a strike from January 21 at Monday's meeting of the Welsh TUC's steel and coal committee.

However, Mr Emyr Williams, South Wales area president of the NUM, said after the meeting that the miners would abide by the majority decision of the Welsh TUC. That appears likely to favour deferring action against the British Steel Corporation's plans for plant reductions and imports of foreign coal, in line with the policy agreed nationally by the TUC on Thursday.

Mr George Wright, general secretary of the Welsh TUC,

said yesterday that he would have preferred the issue to be settled quickly, "but it is better for us to proceed, with the unions going forward united, than if we in Wales are totally isolated."

The peace proposal by the TUC's nationalized industries committee, which wants further consultations with the Government or the BBC on proposed plant closures involving in Wales the estimated loss of up to 50,000 jobs, will be the main topic at Monday's meeting.

The militant mood of the South Wales miners was made clear yesterday by Mr Williams, who said the contingency powers being sought by the leadership could involve the coalfields being called out on strike without TUC backing.

He said the corporation was planning to sign a contract for an additional 12 million tons of foreign coal early next week. That could start massive industrial action by the miners.

"We are concerned with survival," he said. "The seriousness of the issue is such that wages paid are insignificant. We are fighting to prevent the de-industrialization of Wales."

Confusion on electricians' 'strike'

From Ronald Kershaw

Northern Industrial Correspondent

Sheffield

The national steel strike in the North of England presented a picture of confusion yesterday.

At Teesside the electrical trades union called 1,200 craftsmen out on strike and at Consett, at Durham all 600 craftsmen at the plant were laid off.

At Scunthorpe the laying off of 3,500 craftsmen continued but the electrical union had not heard of a strike call. At Sheffield and Rotherham no strike call had been received, but all craftsmen were refusing to cross picket lines at BSC works.

At the privately owned firm of Hadfields, in Sheffield, regarded as the flashpoint of the strike, steel committee and union officials toured the plant, examined the company's books and generally satisfied them-

selves that Hadfields was not handling BSC orders or doing anything to undermine the strike. However, pickets remained at the company's gates.

Mr Derek Norton, Hadfields' chairman, said last night: "The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation observers were totally satisfied with the detailed information they were relayed to see. Despite all the confusion, which has been instigated by the company, we are given to understand that secondary picketing is to continue."

Mr Norton said that Hadfields' work force felt very strong, but that they should be allowed to work normally.

Convenors at the plant said Hadfields workers had strictly observed union policy, for which they had been advised the position at a meeting in Sheffield today.

Mr Stanley Sheridan, of the

Police must be neutral, says Home Secretary

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Emphasizing the neutrality and independence of the police in the sensitive task they had to face in dealing with strikes and picketing, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, last night reiterated the special difficulties they faced in the steel dispute.

He said that it was not, in general, the concern of the police to say who might or who might not picket, or where, but to ensure that the police were not threatened, for example by excessive numbers, the police might have a proper concern about the behaviour of pickets.

If those who wished to go to work were prevented from doing so by pickets obstructing the public highway, then the duty of the police was clear to uphold the criminal law and so enable such people to go to their place of work.

He said that the shared responsibilities of the Home Secretary, the local police authorities, and the chief officers of police had given Britain a police service which was independent of political control yet accountable for its efficiency and integrity to the local communities which each force served and which accepted central support and guidance without enduring central direction and control.

"Today," Mr Whitelaw said, "some forces are having to cope with the situation created by the steel industry dispute. Their task of preserving public order and upholding the criminal law while retaining the confidence of all sections of the community is especially difficult to discharge in a situation such as this."

Addressing the Carlisle Magistrates' Forum in Carlisle, Mr Whitelaw said the best help the Government could give was to be clear about what the police could do and what they could not and should not do, in the context of industrial disputes. He continued:

"First, the police have a duty to preserve order, to prevent the criminal law being broken, and to deal with those who do break it. The criminal law affects picketing, however, only where behaviour in itself criminal, such as unlawful intimidation, or obstruction of the public highway, or breach of the peace, may occur. If an offence such as obstruction, or intimidation amounting to a criminal act, takes place—and there can be no question of excuse for such behaviour—the police have a duty which I know they fully accept to deal with it. It is for governments, through Parliament, to establish the framework of the criminal law; it is for the police to enforce it."

Second, the police are not there to enforce the industrial order, or to act to enforce claims or complaints by one or another party to a dispute. These are matters which have to be dealt with through the civil law.

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When we set out, our basic intention was to spell it out to the Government what a steel strike meant to Britain, and the only way to bring it to the Government's notice is by picketing," he said.

About 200 pickets are to be maintained at Birmingham to picket British Leyland works. A group of 50 will travel to Dover to picket Dover docks.

At Templeborough Rolling Mills, a company jointly owned by BSC and the private sector, Mr Clive Morton, general manager, said some 300 men were being laid off.

There would be no written dispensations for firms in the private sector although pickets might be withdrawn and imposed again.

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HOME NEWS

15,000 Servicemen will go into action to keep health hazards at bay

Contingency plan ready to face water strike

By Peter Hennessy

The Civil Contingencies Unit of the Cabinet Office has prepared a plan to maintain a limited water supply to essential consumers and to keep health hazards at bay in the event of a national water strike. It would require the declaration of a state of emergency, under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920, as the Army would have to requisition water authority equipment, and the deployment of up to 15,000 Servicemen.

No British Government has ever had to deal with a water strike on a national scale. After electricity supply, water is the most worrying contingency the planners have to face. Their plan is totally dependant on supervisory staff staying in their posts to work alongside troops—once manual workers are out, as the Forces cannot cope on their own.

Within 48 hours of manual workers striking, health hazards could become a danger. The most instantly vulnerable points are sewage treatment plants upstream of water supply intakes drawn from rivers. If a strike coincided with a period of wet weather, sewage storage tanks would fill that much quicker and untreated effluent would be discharged into rivers.

The contingency planning community believes the Government would have to settle a

national water strike very quickly. Even with all 15,000 Servicemen deployed, the forces would be stretched thinly across the country and the risks would remain great.

The planners have no direct experience to guide them, but they estimate that a walkout of supervisory staff in just one large conurbation could tip the scales into unmanageability. The Royal Engineers have enough pumps only to keep one water-side city going should water authority equipment break down.

It is hoped that strikers would cut off supplies to industry first while allowing a minimal domestic service to be maintained, with chlorine, the essential disinfectant for drinkable water, moving freely through picket lines. Chlorination is the breaking-point. The industry sets great store by paragraph 30.2 of the 1977 national agreement, which reads:

"The water service is essential to the public and it is agreed by both sides that every effort shall be made to avoid any industrial action which would prejudice public health and public safety and ensure that in the event of industrial action every effort should be made to avoid harm to the health of consumers."

The Civil Contingencies Unit plan, updated last year when local trouble in the North-west and Yorkshire regions threat-

ened to spill over into a national dispute, involves men from all three Services, with technicians from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Royal Navy and chlorine experts from the Royal Engineers the most vital.

It specifies the use of 3,000 technicians, 2,200 drivers and 5,000 general duties men. With control and command staff added, the complement of men reaches 15,000, very close to the upper limit of troops available for what Queen's Regulations call "Military aid to the civil authorities" without seriously jeopardising Nato and Northern Ireland commitments.

Chlorination will be the Services' first priority in water authority treatment plants. In addition, mobile treatment units will be deployed consisting of a Land-Rover, a driver, an electrician and a chlorine expert. Army lorries with 400-gallon water tanks in the back and a 200-gallon trailer in tow will move into areas where supplies have become seriously contaminated.

In terms of health hazard, the greatest worry is back-siphonage of sewage and industrial waste into the mains water supply. Metallic contaminants cannot be dealt with by the simple expedient of boiling the affected water. It needs to be distilled to separate it from such impurities, not an operation the normal household can undertake with ease.

The most common disorder resulting from seriously contaminated water supplies would be diarrhoea. Salmonella would be another relatively common danger. The risk of typhoid would be about one in 750,000, and cholera lower still.

The quality of water will swiftly be affected by industrial action even if supplies trickle on and disease is kept at bay. To eke out the time before filters at treatment plants become blocked, the authorities will hold back flocculants normally added to assist in the coagulation of solids.

Supplies will be discoloured but not dangerous, though householders would be advised to boil water as a precaution. If a strike coincides with cold weather, supplies, as they did in the North-west last winter, could be disrupted by burst mains caused by frosts.

"The greatest ally of the Government in achieving a quick settlement would be the inevitable public opprobrium that would greet the strikers should public health be at risk. Public disapproval is the greatest restraint on the formidable industrial power of water supply employees, whose family, relatives and neighbours cannot insulate themselves from the effect of strike action."

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The Thames Water Authority, which employs about 7,000 manual workers, said it was the intention to maintain services during any strike. There was a contingency plan for such an emergency.

London had endured a sewerage workers' strike in 1972 and the authority had managed to carry on. "We would reckon to keep going, but we do not know for how long. The contingency plan is not tried and tested, but we believe it will work."

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Council sale of homes 'profitable'

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

The sale of council houses, the central measure in the Government's Housing Bill and one of the Conservative Party's main social reforms, would yield a financial profit to both local authorities and the Exchequer for at least 20 years, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday.

He was commenting on the publication of a Department of the Environment document which he claimed was a "most rigorous, sophisticated and comprehensive attempt to assess the financial effects of the sale of council houses."

The minister, who ordered the appraisal to counter opposition to the policy of selling council houses, said that the 20 years would "take us to the end of this century."

"Beyond that the assumptions, and therefore conclusions based on them, must be sold more speculatively. The appraisal reinforces our view that the sale of council houses should bring appreciable benefits, not only to council tenants, but to the community as a whole."

The appraisal uses a range of assumptions including variations on inflation, the rise in earnings, interest rates and rent increases, but takes £14,000 as the national average price of a house in 1980-81. With a 40 per cent discount, the disposal price would be £8,400. The 20-year appraisal, the profits for local authorities and the Exchequer are yielded on all the assumptions. The range is roughly £130-£7,000 for each house.

The uncertainty of assessments is more marked in the 50-year appraisal. The Exchequer would make a profit on most of the assumptions, while local authorities sometimes lose as much as £5,000 on each house.

Appraisal of the Financial Effects of Council House Sales (Department of the Environment, £1.20).

Neither the Government nor Professor Blunt have been prepared to reveal the results of the information provided when the professor was given immunity early in 1964.

TV films planned: Thames Television announced yesterday that they had secured the exclusive world television rights to Andrew Boyle's book, *The Spelling of Treason*, which is Professor Blunt's public exposure as a Soviet spy (Kenneth Gosling writes).

The book is to be dramatized and filmed as a series for the independent television network next year.

Former IRA man should stay in US, judge says

San Francisco, Jan 11.—Peter McMullen, a former IRA activist, should be granted political asylum in the United States, Judge Chester Spikins has said in the immigration court. He ruled that Mr McMullen, who was born in Belfast, was not subject to deportation to the Irish republic, the country which he claims to be his home.

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Vietnamese bride: Miss Hue Minh, aged 26, a nurse, one of the first "boat people" to arrive in England from Vietnam, after her marriage yesterday at Fareham Register Office, Hampshire, to Mr Paul Rushton, superintendent of the reception centre at Gosport where she and her family went to live. When her parents, three sisters and a brother left Gosport to live in Birmingham, she remained to work with other refugees.

British Airways hopeful of normal services soon

By Arthur Keest

Air Correspondent

British Airways plans to cancel 16 round-trip flights today because of the engineering workers' pay dispute that has disrupted its services this week.

No long-distance services will be affected. All the cancellations are to flights within Britain, to Europe or to the Middle East.

They are: two to Jersey, two to Paris, two to Frankfurt, and one each to Leeds/Bradford, Rome, Dubai, Cologne, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Munich, Helsinki, Geneva and Düsseldorf.

In addition, some flights to Jersey and Guernsey that would normally leave from London will be transferred to Southampton.

A similar number of short and medium-distance services were cancelled by British Airways

yesterday, and six long-haul flights. Among the latter were two services from London to New York.

The strike by engineers is due to end today and the airline management expressed optimism yesterday that services will be back to normal by tomorrow, even though an overtime ban remains.

At a meeting on Monday of the British Airways national sectional panel, on which both sides sit, recommendations that could lead to a settlement will be considered.

The dispute involves 8,500 engineers and maintenance employees from eight unions. They are pursuing a claim for a 25 per cent pay rise, and have rejected an offer of 17 per cent on the ground that it is linked to a productivity deal.

The engineers contend that the deal would mean some of their tasks being taken over by less skilled labour.

Weather forecast and recordings

HOME NEWS

Shortage of qualified teachers threatens core curriculum plan

By Diana Gaddes
Education Correspondent

The Government's plans for a core curriculum in all schools could be jeopardized by the serious shortage of qualified teachers of mathematics, science and modern languages, Lady Young, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, admitted yesterday.

Speaking at the national education conference in London organized by the National Union of Teachers, Lady Young said that the Government's 1977 survey of secondary school teachers had shown, for example, that 16 per cent of mathematics was being taught by 12,500 teachers with no qualification in the subject.

Yet 38 per cent of those with a qualification in mathematics were not teaching it. The Government was carrying out a further analysis of the 1977 survey data to discover the extent to which shortages might be overcome by sensible redeployment.

As an interim measure, the Government was continuing its special one-year courses to retrain teachers, and to support mature Teacher Training students in certain shortage subjects. The schemes had already increased the supply of teachers in those subjects by nearly 1,600 over the past two years.

But that could never provide a complete answer. In the long term sufficient school-leavers of

the right quality must be attracted into teacher training specializing in the shortage subjects. It was not just a question of getting institutions to offer more courses; the courses on offer were not being filled.

"We must break the vicious circle of too few teachers leading to too few pupils pursuing the subjects to the right level to supply higher education and, consequently, too few teachers being produced", she said.

Latest figures for applications to next year's Bachelor of Education and Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) courses show that the shortage of teachers of mathematics, science, modern languages and design and technology will continue to get worse.

For the BED secondary school course there are only 191 candidates for mathematics, 131 for French, five for German, 11 for chemistry, and 10 for physics.

For the PGCE course there are 448 candidates in mathematics, 223 in chemistry and 146 in physics, all down on last year, and 1,230 in modern languages, which is about the same as last year.

Overall applications to the BED course, which supplies about half the total number of new teachers, are 28 per cent down on the same time last year and applications to the PGCE course are 2 per cent down.



The new face of Auchinstarry quarry, Kilsyth, central Scotland, which was turned into a recreational area and won an award from the Association of Landscape Contractors of America. The restoration of the area cost £141,000.

Ulster talks run into new trouble

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The Government's political initiative on Northern Ireland ran into further trouble last night over the key question of whether the Secretary of State should be allowed to introduce the so-called Irish dimension at the Stormont constitutional conference.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, met Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to tell him that his party would not be at the Stormont talks, that the Government hoped to establish to take the tension off the main conference.

The Government's aim was to promote discussion at the separate talks on security, the economy and the European Economic Community, all of which could be broadened into an all-Ireland context and thus satisfy Catholic demands.

Mr Paisley rejected the parallel talks as a sideshow, adding: "This is a play by the Secretary of State to bring the Social Democratic and Labour Party into the room to discuss things that are ruled out of order at the real conference."

The SDLP says that unless the Irish dimension can be ruled out there will be no point in talking peace, since Irish unity in the long term is a central plank of party policy.

The SDLP appears to be happy with the idea of a "second conference" which could allow the main forum to discuss less sensitive matters on which agreement might be possible. The Official Unionist leaders, who are boycotting the main conference, are not interested either in extending any parallel talks.

Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionists, told East Belfast Unionist Association last night that the Government's initiative could not fulfil the hopes so recklessly raised.

Club 'attracted men like moths to a flame'

Men from the Middle East, sometimes called 'moths to a flame', were attracted to a club in two West End clubs where prostitutes operated, Mr Michael Kempster, QC, for the prosecution, alleged at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, yesterday.

The clubs, Churchills in New Bond Street and the 21 Club, nearby, provided a base for about 40 prostitutes to work from, he added.

The owners, Harry Meadows, aged 59, of Churchills Gardens, and his son, Andrew Maxwell Meadows, aged 34, of Queen Street, both Westminster, are jointly charged with living on prostitution between September 1, 1975, and November 5, 1977.

Salvador Vella, aged 50, former head waiter at Churchills, of St John Wood, is charged with living on prostitution between November 21, 1974, and April 1, 1977. All three pleaded not guilty.

Mr Kempster said the appeal of the clubs lay in the provision, deliberately and intentionally by the accused, for customers to be introduced to the premises to prostitutes or to girls who were liable to be corrupted and become prostitutes. "The prostitutes provided both motivation and stimulation for customers to spend freely."

"Reciprocally, the three accused provided the prostitutes with facilities for meeting customers whose desire in due course they could exploit for reward."

Counsel said that if female company was sought or enjoyed at the 21 Club the customer would pay a fee of £10, either in cash to a girl or it would go on the bill and would be given to the girl later.

If a man wanted to take a hostess to an hotel, the girl demanded at least £50, he continued. The trial continues on Monday.

M5 rapist 'becoming more brutal'

A police hunt involving detectives from eight forces is under way for the attacker known as the M5 rapist. He is thought to have struck at least 15 times. His victims have ranged from a schoolgirl of 15 to a widow aged 71.

The police say the attacker is becoming more brutal with each attack and they are concerned that if he is not caught soon he might murder one of his victims.

The hunt for the rapist began in 1974 when he claimed his first victim at Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. Most of the attacks since then have taken place close to the M5, but this week detectives have linked him with a number of other attacks.

The police have disclosed that the man struck four days before Christmas, near Newbury, Berkshire. The victim was a widow, aged 71, whose husband had died only three weeks earlier. She was dragged from her bed and raped.

His latest victim was a schoolgirl, aged 15, who was attacked at Dorchester on January 2.

The hunt is being coordinated from a special police incident room at Nailsea, near Bristol, under the control of Det Chief Inspector Donald Taylor, of Avon and Somerset police. The police said from there yesterday that there were certain factors linking the attacks.

"There is a possibility that the number of victims is in excess of 16. It may be that some cases have never been reported to us," the rapist boasted to his victim in Berkshire: "I have done this 20 times before."

In brief

Dismissed vicar is divorced

The Rev Kenneth Flenley, who was dismissed as Vicar of Bathford, near Bath, after a church inquiry ruled that his friendship with a widow had caused a serious pastoral breakdown, was granted a divorce yesterday.

Mr Flenley, aged 62, said later that he intended to marry the widow, Mrs Betty Akin, aged 47, who has four children.

Four children die in fire at home

Four children died in an upstairs bedroom during a fire at their home in Forsythia Close, Risca, Gwent, yesterday.

They were Nigel, aged 5, Derek, aged five, Ann-Marie, aged four, and David, aged 12 months, whose father, Mr David Hall, a coach driver, was at work at the time.

The Queen's party

The Queen is giving a party on the Sandringham estate today for 40 children aged 5-11. She will present book prizes for good attendance at the children's church and watch a puppet entertainment with them.

Commuters delayed

Commuters travelling into London on the main East Coast line faced train cancellations again yesterday because of a strike by 250 drivers and guards at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

Firemen end action

Fire brigade union members in Strathclyde who had decided to operate their own work schedules in defiance of those laid down by Mr Richard Knowlton, the Strathclyde fire master, suddenly called off their action yesterday.

Prison inquiry

Police have begun an investigation at Stanfor Hill open prison, on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, after allegations of misuse of prison property.

Drug gives relief from arthritis

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

A new drug, a single dose of which will give relief to sufferers from arthritic conditions for a day, was announced by Pfizer, of Sandwich, Kent, yesterday.

The compound, Feldene, developed by 15 years of research initiated by a British doctor, is the first non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent for 10 years and, it is claimed, marks a significant advance in the treatment of conditions from which about two thirds of the population suffer during their lives.

Distribution of the drug has begun. Its cost to the National Health Service will be 30p a day for each patient.

Dr Edward Huskisson, an international authority on the therapeutic management of arthritis and a senior lecturer at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said the new drug was significant largely because it was convenient; instead of patients having to take a dozen or more tablets a day and carry a bottle to work, one dose a day was sufficient.

The discoverer of the drug, a new chemical class known as arxicams, is Dr Edward Wiseman, of Portsmouth, who did his research in America.

In a study of patients with osteoarthritis, the most common form of rheumatism, in eight countries, 70 to 80 per cent of the 1,218 sufferers had marked or moderate improvement from treatment with Feldene.

The drugs had also been found to be effective in the treatment of acute gout and of ankylosing spondylitis, inflammation of joints of the spine.

Marriage lasted as long as the reception

Married life for Teresa Wignall, aged 16, lasted only as long as the wedding reception, it was stated in the Family Division of the High Court yesterday.

After the guests left her bridegroom, Eric, aged 21, also left, to go to work on a night shift at an hotel chef. He never returned to live with her.

The judge granted Mrs Wignall, now aged 20, of Hazelwood Crescent, North Kensington, London, a decree nisi of nullity because of the refusal of her husband, now aged 25, to consummate their marriage.

After yesterday's undefended hearing, which Mr Wignall did not attend, Mrs Wignall said: "We had known each other for two years, since I was 14

however, may well be out of pocket. The fares Townsend Thoresen quote in the advertisement for its Dover-Calais crossings in August apply only to ships leaving Dover at 4 am or 6 am and to sailings from Calais at midnight.

On other sailings the fares are between £6 and £14.50 dearer in each direction.

A spokesman for P & O Harland & Wolff said: "They have certainly chosen examples to suit themselves. Our price comparisons show that we are generally cheaper for medium sized cars, and for single people travelling with large cars."

Thoresen has taken account in its calculations of Sealink's offer of a £15 discount for early payment for motorists' summer crossings. That offer was yesterday extended until February 28.

Dr Owen calls for £15m EEC aid for coal board

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Application should be made immediately by the Government for a £15m to £20m grant from EEC funds for the National Coal Board for 1980-81 to eliminate the need for imports of coking coal, Dr David Owen, MP for Plymouth, Devonport, and former Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, said last night.

Addressing the Blaydon Fabian Society in Stanley, co Durham, Dr Owen said that was one way the European Community could respond to the Prime Minister's demand for reduction in the size of the net British contribution to the EEC budget.

If the grant was obtained, the coal board would be able to offer coking coal to the British Steel Corporation at a price that would eliminate the need for the corporation to import any further foreign coal this year.

That would prevent pit closures, redundancies among miners, and the absurd situation of Britain, at a time of world energy shortage, reducing its coal production.

"I cannot believe that it would be in the interests of the European Community to refuse to make a grant to Britain to prevent it from importing coking coal," he said.

Valentine Orrin-Elcock, who was said to have kept dogs in a "living hell", was jailed for six months yesterday by magistrates at Uckfield, Sussex. His wife, Monica, received a six-months' sentence suspended for two years.

Both were banned from keeping a dog for five years and were barred for life from boarding animals.

Mr Michael Clark, the chairman, said the sanctuary they had tried to set up for unwanted strays was more like a refuge camp.

"Everyone who has been in court over these two days will share the feelings of revulsion and puzzlement that the bench has," he said, "revulsion at the conditions that have been described as appalling, revolting and a living hell, and puzzlement that Mrs Orrin-Elcock, an obvious animal lover, could allow these conditions to continue."

Mr Orrin-Elcock, aged 52, and his wife, aged 46, denied causing unnecessary suffering to dogs.

Measures for 'quango cull' may be severe

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Government measures to prune severely the number of quasi-autonomous non-governmental organizations (Quangos) are expected to be announced soon.

It is understood that Sir Leo Pliatzky, a former permanent secretary at the Department of Trade, who was retained in the Civil Service after his retirement by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to carry out a thorough examination of quangos, has now completed his report and it has been sent to the Prime Minister.

A number of quangos have already been scrapped by the Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of the Environment, but a more rigorous exercise is expected.

Mr Phillip Holland, Conservative MP for Carlton, who has earned himself a backbench reputation for being a quango-chaser, said last night that while he welcomed the action already taken he did not expect a total conflagration of quangos.

Each body must be evaluated, but there was a strong vested interest in maintaining the status quo, he told the North-West Conservative Association. "Those great beneficiaries of quangocracy, the trade unions and the academics of the left, are beginning to fight back. They must be repulsed."

Mr Holland, speaking about what he called "the quango cull" said that he had resolutely resisted the temptation to be specific about naming his candidates for extinction. That was for the decision of the ministers responsible for appointments.

Mr Holland said he had listed 1,300 advisory bodies. If any were providing technical information that was not available from any other source there might well be a case for retaining and strengthening them. But there could be no case for bodies that merely duplicated work.

The fastest man in the atmosphere

By Sara Bonner

Mr David Springbett, a Lloyd's underwriter, arrived in London yesterday after reducing the record for circumnavigating the world on scheduled flights by nearly nine-and-a-half hours.

His journey, which started from Los Angeles on Tuesday, took 44 hours and six minutes, nearly two hours less than the time for which he had aimed.

The previous record, established in 1978 by two Australian journalists, was 53 hours and 34 minutes. Mr Springbett's 23,068-mile route took him from Los Angeles to London, Bangkok, Singapore, Bangkok, Manila, Tokyo, Honolulu and back to Los Angeles.

On his return Mr Springbett, aged 41, found that he had set another record by beating the round-the-world time of 45 hours and 19 minutes set by an American B152 bomber. He became the fastest man "with-in" the atmosphere. Only astronauts and some moonshots have travelled faster. He said in London that he thought his record was unbeatable.

One of the reasons for the record-breaking attempt was to expose what he regards as the "myth" of jet-lag. He was examined by a doctor after the flight and his blood-pressure was only fractionally higher.

Motorists must not expect councils to salt and grit all roads, minister says

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

The public must be realistic in its expectations of what can be done to keep roads clear of snow and ice this winter, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday. Increased use of de-icing salt during the extreme weather of last winter had run down stocks. Local authorities would have to weigh the cost of treating roads against their other commitments.

Speaking in Kandal, Cumbria, Mr Clarke went on: "Only the more important roads can be treated quickly and even they cannot be rendered perfectly safe in extreme conditions."

Each council had to decide how much money should be devoted to salting at the expense of new road building, support for public transport, concessionary fares and other claims.

Mr Clarke said far more salt was put on the roads now than was the case five years ago. The cost of imported salt this winter would be about £20m, which was a heavy burden on the balance of payments.

Much of the responsibility for safe driving in bad conditions had to rest on the motorist. Common sense demanded that drivers should not make non-essential journeys when conditions were dangerous, and when journeys had to be made extreme care must be taken.

According to a recent survey by the Automobile Association

Jury to give verdict on death of Mr Kelly

A jury is to decide how James Kelly died while in police custody, Mr Ronald Lloyd, the Merseyside Coroner, announced yesterday.

Mr Kelly, aged 53, a labourer, of Sleaford Road, Huyton, Merseyside, died after being picked up by police. His family claim he was severely beaten, but the police say he was found unconscious on waste ground. Mr Kelly had been drinking heavily.

Calls for a public inquiry into the affair have intensified since Sir Thomas Retherington, Director of Public Prosecutions, announced that no police officer involved would be prosecuted.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has rejected the demands, one of which came from Sir Harold Wilson. Evidence collected during an internal police investigation into Mr Kelly's death will be made available to the resumed inquest.

Mr Lloyd's decision to sit with a jury and the submission of police evidence meets two of the Kelly family's demands, but they also wanted a public inquiry.

MP dissatisfied: A coroner's inquest in no way offers an acceptable substitute for a full public inquiry, Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, said in a letter to Mr Whitelaw yesterday (our Political Correspondent writes).

He added: "I say this because, firstly, there can be no cross-examination of witnesses at a coroner's inquest, secondly, because a coroner can and usually does 'direct' a jury in the most forthright manner as to the verdict they should return, and thirdly, because it is difficult to have much faith in a Merseyside inquest's uncovering the full facts when the original official inquest was such a blatant farce."

"I therefore believe that a full public inquiry is needed into this case, and I would ask you to reconsider your decision."

Mr Meacher said that the decision of the DPP not to prosecute "can only lend currency to the view, which I suspect more and more people now hold, that if the Kelly case does not lead to a prosecution, no death in police custody will ever do so."

Record syndicate 'smashed after raid on plant'

A big syndicate involved in the unauthorized recordings of artists' performances, which had been smashed, the British Phonographic Industry disclosed yesterday. It said its investigators raided a disused airfield in the North-East just before Christmas and discovered an illicit studio, which sent some of the "leaguers" for the unauthorized recordings, and Germal Galvanic Ltd, which made the plates.

Two other defendants, Mr Anthony Marsh, who was said to be a teacher, and the Bahamas, and his firm, Derry Sound Service, have yet to be served with the proceedings.

The inside story of 'In Place of Strife'

Barbara Castle was at the centre of three Labour governments, from 1964 to 1976. Most nights at after Cabinet or party caucus or Buckingham Palace reception, Barbara Castle, former journalist and shorthand writer, wrote her impressions in secret diary; and she kept it secret for a decade.

Tomorrow The Sunday Times begins serialization of her book, *In Place of Strife* (to be published this autumn), which tells the inside story of what happened when a Labour government attempted to bring the law into areas of trade union power.

Mr David Springbett: blood pressure normal

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WEST EUROPE

M Barre tells firms to talk with unions

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Jan 11

Mr Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, called French employers to task yesterday for their lack of enthusiasm for discussions with the trade unions. He was reacting to criticism that he practised a "soft" variety of liberalism, and did not look further than the end of his nose, while President Giscard d'Estaing had his head in the clouds and was busy contemplating the problems of the next millennium.

M Barre said he understood the difficulties faced by employers, especially those of medium and small firms. "But let them not lose sight of the essential, now within their grasp, of establishing with the trade unions relations based on dialogue and the common search for suitable solutions."

He was not averse to correcting the image which the Opposition is creating in an article of a man dedicated to serving the employers' interests. Although his liberal philosophy precludes excessive intervention by the Government in relations between employers and labour, he told a forum organised by the economic magazine L'Expansion that the dialogue with labour is the key to the unity of France.

"For the Government, the search for a solution and an operation with trade union organisations is inseparable from its desire to acknowledge the freedom of firms. But let there be no mistake about the Government's policy, it is not a policy of reaction, but of progress."

M Barre was speaking on the morning of the breakdown of discussions between employers and unions on the reduction in the hours of work after 20 months of discussion, which has paralysed the Government to take the matter into its own hands. It is to announce soon an initiative to resume discussions and bring them to a satisfactory conclusion.

The Prime Minister recalled that in October, he had suggested that employers and labour should take up three broad subjects of negotiation: working hours, a minimum income for the lowest paid workers, and worker participation. On none of the country has any progress been achieved.

M Barre insisted that the results of the elections to workers' tribunals on December 12 had confirmed his analysis of the labour situation in France. "No one can deny the representative character of the unions, or their role in labour relations. Their capacity for dialogue has increased since 1973."

"The Government considers this evolution is positive for the French economy and society. It wishes that in spite of difficulties of all kinds the country going through the year 1980 should be a year of expansion and deepening of the social dialogue."

The fact is that the Prime Minister, who has given firms freedom over prices, feels he has been ill rewarded by the unwillingness to conclude national labour agreements.

On the prospects for France this year, he defined seven main trends, as one newspaper put it. They are:

Continued increases in oil and energy prices; a less rapid growth rate and a slower rise in the standard of living; the substitution of a "society of creation, initiative and responsibility" for a "society of consumption, distribution, and assistance";

The stepping up of ruthless international competition; slow progress towards greater international monetary stability; slow and difficult progress towards a more functional organization of Europe; and the worsening of the problem of the least developed countries.

To these trends corresponded seven pillars of wisdom: a dynamic birthrate; a steady development of exports; stability of the franc; reduction of dependence on imported energy; freedom of decision for firms on prices, production, investment, wages and jobs; reorganization of the main public and semi-public systems; and improvement in social progress.

Zurich's great newspaper is 200 years old

Zurich, Jan 11.—The headline announcing the outbreak of the First World War was half an inch high. It was hardly bigger when an even greater configuration began in 1939, and the said stance has not changed since.

Editorial cool-headedness and sparing use of bold print have been a tradition for the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* which marks its two hundredth anniversary tomorrow as the oldest among the world's leading newspapers.

What began as a four-page, twice-weekly chronicle has long become almost essential reading for German speakers in government and industry, ranging from Dr Henry Kissinger and M Jean François Pothet, the French Foreign Minister, to international financiers and a number of Kremlin subscribers.

It is as much part of the Swiss image as watchmaking or the Matterhorn and can claim to have had a prime role in creating modern Switzerland. Not that it has been critical: the Nazis banned it years before the war, and it was one of the last newspapers to be banned by the Swiss establishment.



Corsican autonomists surrender their arms after peacefully leaving the occupied hotel in Ajaccio.

Corsican gunmen free hostages and give in

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Jan 11

The 40 Corsican nationalists entrenched in a hotel in the centre of Ajaccio since early on Wednesday, holding 10 guests as hostages, gave themselves up to the police early today without a shot being fired.

But much to the surprise and relief of the French authorities, as well as the island's 24-hour strike called by 48 political and trade union organizations, throughout the island was widely observed.

Ajaccio was like a dead town this morning, most shops having put up their shutters. Tension persisted among the island's population still under the shock of the three deaths in Wednesday's shooting.

A 70-year-old French settler from Tulaia was kidnapped last night at Bravone, near Ajaccio, where two gendarmes were killed five years ago in clashes with autonomists.

In contrast to the nervousness of the police on Wednesday which led to two of the three deaths, the surrender of the autonomists was obtained through the resourcefulness and cold blood of the commander of the special anti-gang group of the gendarmerie, Captain

Prouteau, a parachute specialist.

He succeeded in penetrating through the rooftops into the hotel, and making contact with the leader of the autonomists, M Marcel Lorenzoni, also an amateur parachutist. The autonomist leader knew of the gendarmes' plan and had some respect for him.

No bargain was struck, but as a result of their meeting, the autonomists who realized their position was hopeless — the hotel was surrounded, and the island was under a 24-hour strike — agreed to take the premises with them, and to surrender with the honour of war, so to speak.

Shortly before 2 am, they emerged from the hotel, carrying their rifles and shotguns above their heads, and two women among them carrying the white Corsican flag with the moor's head. They were accompanied by the 10 hotel guests.

Singing the Corsican anthem, "Dio vi salva Regina", they walked down the middle of the street under an armed escort of the riot squad to the police headquarters about 300 yards away. There they handed in

their weapons and were charged.

They also handed over one of the two alleged members of the anti-autonomist group, M Alain Ollivier, who was taken prisoner at Bastelica, near Ajaccio, on Sunday, when the trouble began.

The other man taken prisoner by the autonomists, Commander Bertolini, whom the autonomists suspect of having led the anti-autonomist movement Francia for a year in several bomb attacks against them, was still missing. He lost a leg in 1978 when an explosive charge wrecked his car.

The police and gendarmerie were combing the scrubland where he is believed to be held since the evacuation of Bastelica on Monday, before the police invested the village.

The hotel guests said they had been well treated during their detention by the autonomists. The latter had told them they were surrendering because they had not enough weapons to carry on.

Mr Guindach said the problem was that the French and the British put different interpretations on the verdict of the European Court last September which ruled that France was in breach of Community regulations for banning British lamb exports.

Mr Guindach said the French and the British put different interpretations on the verdict of the European Court last September which ruled that France was in breach of Community regulations for banning British lamb exports.

But he sympathized with the French side. One wants to be able to live in peace, he said. There will be no loss of income for French producers, he said.

The British claim for damages for the loss to exporters was not in his view the most urgent problem. "What is necessary is to find a reasonable organization of the market," he said.

M Mehaugnerie said France was prepared to respect the ruling of the European Court, but it was necessary to proceed by stages.

Leading article, page 13

Hope for sextuplets

Florence, Jan 11.—Sextuplets, four boys and two girls, were born to a woman in Florence today, her doctors said all were expected to live.

Dutch bishops prepare to study their problems

From Peter Nichols Rome, Jan 11

International interest in the problems of Dutch Catholicism was widespread because western Europe and America faced essentially similar issues, Cardinal Willebrands, Archbishop of Utrecht, said today. On Monday the Dutch bishops began a special synod in the Vatican convened by the Pope.

The convocation is unprecedented in modern times. This no doubt helped account for the Dutch bishops' decision to give a synopsis of the pastoral situation, the problems it presented and solutions which had to be sought.

The synod was a response to the need, he said, of establishing as completely as possible common ground among the bishops and with the Pope.

Cardinal Willebrands handled questions in a way suggesting that he was already tired and hardly in good humour. His own position is difficult. He was appointed to Utrecht four years ago as successor to Cardinal Alfrink.

He was then head of the Vatican's secretariat dealing with Christian unity and has retained the post, though he has had to share his time between Utrecht and Rome, a patently unsatisfactory arrangement. The arrangement placed him in the centre of the problem of reconciling Dutch Catholicism with whatever may be said about the



Cardinal Willebrands: His own position is difficult.

experiments within Dutch Catholicism. The bench of seven bishops remained united until 1971 when the Vatican appointed the first of two conservative bishops.

The appointment of Mgr Adrianus Simonis to Rotterdam followed by that of Mgr Johannes Gijzen to Roermond. Mgr Simonis has proved sufficiently cooperative with the other bishops for collaboration to be possible. Mgr Gijzen has no.

Cardinal Willebrands was driven to issue a statement in March, 1979, in Rome to answer an interview given by Mgr Gijzen and published in Holland which, among other issues, called for papal intervention in the affairs of the Dutch church.

OVERSEAS

President Castro takes more power in Government reshuffle

Havana, Jan 11.—Nine ministers have been replaced in a reorganization of the Cuban Government which strengthens the powers of President Fidel Castro and his brother, Raul.

The Council of State in the communiqué published in the Communist Party newspaper *Granma*, said President Castro would now be directly in charge of the military and the Ministries of the Interior, Health and Culture.

It said Señor Raul Castro, already first Deputy Prime Minister, "will collaborate with the President in this task and those inherent in his functions".

The statement said that the reorganization was undertaken to facilitate "the control and the coordination of the work of the organisms of state".

Before the reorganization President Castro had no direct assignments. The nine ministers replaced were those for Justice, Heavy Industry, Light Industry, Sugar Industry, Education, Agriculture, Trade, Fishing, and Iron and Steel, the council said.

It also said that the president of the State Committee of Labour and the National Tourism Institute were also replaced. The extensive reorganization comes less than a month after a Cabinet reshuffle on December 14 in which the Health and Transport Ministers lost their posts.

At the same time as the ministerial changes, the Council of State also announced that Señor José Santiago Cuba Ferrer, Chief of State Prosecutor, had been relieved of his post and replaced by Señor Adolfo de Guevara Quintana.

The communiqué said the measures were in line with the policy of proceeding with changes in the Office of Public Prosecutions proposed by the Head of State (Dr Castro) and the Government.

Observers have interpreted the Government reshuffle as an attempt to put the country out of its worst economic recession since he came to power.

"For some months the leaders of the nation have been questioning the not-always effective functioning of some Government organs," the *Prensa Latina* news agency said in announcing the changes.

Western diplomatic sources said it was too early to say whether the changes represented a purge or simply the removal of current officials' responsibilities.

The reshuffle came amid what Western diplomats in Havana have called the worst economic crisis the Caribbean island has

had since President Castro toppled President Fulgencio Batista in 1959. Señor Raul Castro has admitted that Cuba would be bankrupt without the aid it gets from the Soviet Union.

The Government changes came soon after the appearance in Havana of posters and posters attacking President Castro which sparked an increase in overnight patrols by vigilante groups.

The patrols are being made by members of neighbourhood "committees for the defence of the revolution" founded in 1960 to guard against sabotage by anti-Castro groups.

A member of a vigilante patrol said: "Yes, it is true, the patrols have been stepped up. Before it was two persons per zone, now it is two per block. We have been told to be more alert."

Two unarmed vigilantes were on duty at most street corners in the densely populated city centre district.

Committees for the defence of the revolution have held meetings in recent days to discuss "an important matter". Foreign correspondents are not allowed into such meetings, so it was not known whether they concerned the security measures.

The increase in the activities of the vigilantes coincides with widespread identity checks and detentions by police in Havana in recent weeks, according to Cuban workers and students and foreign diplomats.

The increased security is believed to be aimed not only at finding those responsible for the anti-government propaganda but also at rounding up common criminals, black marketers and vagrants, while at the same time improving police discipline.

Police have been boarding buses to check identity cards, examining parcels carried by pedestrians, and stopping cars at night, without documents, or with scarce goods for which they could not account, have been detained.

The tighter security measures have not been reported in the official Cuban press, but news of the measures has been spread by the interior Ministry that Cubans are obliged always to carry their identity cards.

In addition to the posters and leaflets, a clandestine radio station, purporting to be the voice of the Cuban people, has been broadcasting anti-Castro opinions in recent months, but some Western diplomats believe the transmissions may come from outside Cuba.—Agence France-Presse, UPI, Reuter.

Sadat plan for Gaza studied in Israel

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem, Jan 11

After the failure of the Aswan summit to break the deadlock on the key issue of Palestinian autonomy, there is a growing conviction among both Israeli and Egyptian officials that agreement in the joint autonomy negotiations will not be reached by its target date of May 26.

Israeli Government sources are trying to play down the significance of the date. Among international observers there is speculation that the American Government will soon have to step in again to try to force progress on both the autonomy issue and the future status of Jerusalem.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry explained today that President Sadat's suggestion about implementing autonomy first in the Gaza Strip was different from the previous "Gaza first" proposals which have been put forward by the Egyptians on a number of occasions since 1978.

Under the latest plan, which will be put before the Israeli Cabinet on Sunday, President Sadat is no longer arguing that the 400,000 Gaza Arabs should be offered a different form of autonomy than the 700,000 Arabs in the West Bank. He is merely proposing that once a single form of autonomy is agreed by all parties, it should be implemented first in Gaza.

Dr Yosef Burg, the Minister of the Interior, who is Israel's chief negotiator, said today that a special committee should be established to review the new plan. But Israeli politicians are playing down the Egyptian plan, saying that before it can be taken up the wide differences on the whole autonomy question will have to be bridged.

In Gaza, a narrow rectangle of land occupied by Egypt until 1967, there was predictably little enthusiasm for the Sadat proposal among leading Arab notables or political figures. Many prominent Gazans have informed the Egyptian Government that they would be unwilling to accept any position which would differentiate them from the Palestinians on the West Bank.

Mr Helkin A-Shaw, chairman of the Palestinian Bank and head of the Gaza-Citrus Marketing Board, commented: "Gaza and the West Bank cannot be split. We are all Palestinians and we oppose the autonomy plan for not meeting the minimum of our aims."

S African police move against new black group

From Our Correspondent Cape Town, Jan 11

Security police in Port Elizabeth detained three black civil rights leaders and used tear gas to disperse protesting crowds in the black township of Walmer, whose residents are to be removed under Government policy.

The three men detained are Mr Thozamile Botha, the leader of Pebo (Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation), who has played a key role in recent strikes at the Port Elizabeth Ford motor plant; Mr Phalo Tshame, the secretary of Pebo; and Mr Mono Badales, a journalist and member of the executive of the (black) Writers' Association of South Africa.

The men were arrested while preparing to hold a meeting in a church hall. As crowds gathered in protest, police came to the scene in riot vehicles and fired tear-gas shells.

Police action came after Pebo's decision to implement a city-wide strike and demonstration against the planned removal of the township from Walmer. The arrests came after a long spell of sporadic unrest in the black townships of Port Elizabeth, which have never really settled down since the 1976 Soweto disturbances.

A police statement said the reason for the weeks of unrest, stone throwing, petrol bombing and other illegal actions, was the decision to implement a city-wide strike and demonstration against the planned removal of the township from Walmer. The arrests came after a long spell of sporadic unrest in the black townships of Port Elizabeth, which have never really settled down since the 1976 Soweto disturbances.

Bishops support Vatican over Kung case

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn, Jan 11

The West German Roman Catholic bishops today published a pastoral message defending the decision of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith barring Professor Hans Küng from teaching as a Roman Catholic theologian.

The bishops said: "In full unity with the Pope... we are unfortunately obliged to state that Professor Küng represents on various points of faith opinions which are contrary to the teaching of the Church."

The message will be read out in church pulpits on Sunday. The great majority of the 16 members of the theological faculty of Tübingen University where the Swiss-born theologian teaches, approved a resolution demanding that Professor Küng should be allowed to continue to work there.

The Bishop of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, Mgr Georg Meier, has appealed to Herr Helmut Engler, the Baden-Württemberg Minister of Education, to dismiss Professor Küng if he did not do so of his own accord.

Ethiopian troops retreat in new Eritrean offensive

From Our Correspondent Khartoum, Jan 11.—Ethiopian troops are fleeing through a waterless corner of Eritrea province toward the Red Sea after a significant defeat by Eritrean guerrillas at the town of Nakfa.

A spokesman for the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) said here yesterday that the Ethiopians were retreating toward the harbour of Marsa Taklai, about 80 miles north of Nakfa.

He said the Ethiopians would find it hard to reach the coast, which they continue to hold in the face of a reported Eritrean offensive, "because there is only one well of drinkable water in the area."

Mr Andemicael Kahsai, an ELF central committee member, said in Rome yesterday that Eritrean secessionist forces had put Ethiopian Government troops to rout last Sunday at Nakfa after four weeks of fighting.

Mr Kahsai put the Ethiopian strength at 13,000 men, backed by tanks, heavy artillery and air cover. Guerrilla strength in the battle was estimated at 7,000, with a few tanks and an assortment of mostly light artillery.

Agence France-Presse. Guerrillas' allegation: Somali guerrillas fighting Ethiopian rule in the Ogaden region of south-east Ethiopia accused Ethiopia of using napalm against civilians and of poisoning a vital water well.

Curfew is eased but Seychelles 'stays vigilant'

Nairobi, Jan 11.—The Seychelles Government has further relaxed the curfew imposed on November 16 after President René announced that a plot to overthrow his regime had been foiled.

The curfew, which formerly began at 10 pm, now operates only between 1 am and 5 am, but no boats are permitted to leave or enter between 6 pm and 6 am, and the Government has called for "continued vigilance" against a foreign invasion.

More than 80 people were detained in November but some have since been freed.

Russians form bulk of European refugees moved

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Jan 11

Some 58,000 East European refugees, mostly Russians, were resettled last year under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). This was the largest number since the 1956 Hungarian crisis.

Of that total, 54,280 were Russians, of whom 17,489 went to Israel and 33,914 to the United States.

Altogether, ICEM moved 248,000 people in 1979, the highest yearly figure since it was established 28 years ago.

Vietnam may accept peace zone

From Our Correspondent Kuala Lumpur, Jan 11

Tunku Ahmad Rithauddeen, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, returned from a three-day official visit to Vietnam with a message to narrow the divergence of views between the two countries.

He told a press conference on his arrival that the two countries had agreed to disagree on the major issues concerning peace and stability in South-East Asia.

The principal area of divergence lies in differing attitudes towards Kampuchea, which the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) does not recognize because Vietnam invaded it a year ago and replaced the Pol Pot administration with one led by Mr Heng Samrin.

But he described his visit as a success if only because Malaysia, and therefore, by extension, Asean, of which she

is a member, was able to gauge the first hand the Vietnamese attitude towards Asean and its position towards Kampuchea.

At the same time, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, indicated in a press interview in Hanoi that Vietnam was prepared to accept the 1971, Kuala Lumpur declaration as the basis for creating a zone of peace and stability in South-East Asia.

This was the declaration accepted by the Asean members Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Mr Thach's interview with correspondents from the Malaysian Bernama news agency and the Government-run Malaysian radio and television network in Hanoi yesterday, released today, was the first in which Vietnam had responded favourably to the concept of a zone of peace.

Position of hostility towards Asean and its attempts to create a zone of peace in the region. Tunku Rithauddeen, however, said the fact the Vietnamese had agreed to continue negotiations was an indication that some convergence of views was possible.

Mr Thach is expected to resume his bilateral talks in Kuala Lumpur in March or April, after which he could visit the other countries in Asean.

Independence respected? In Hanoi, before he flew home, Mr Rithauddeen said Mr Thach, Mr Tan Dong, the Vietnamese Prime Minister, and Mr Thach had assured him their country would respect the independence and territorial integrity of Thailand and other Asean members.

He added that proposals by Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia for the signing of bilateral, non-aggression pacts and the holding of talks to set up a peace zone in the region would be studied.—Agence France-Presse.



OVERSEAS

Poll shows big swing against Mr Reagan

From Patrick Brogan, Washington, Jan 11

A public opinion poll published in Iowa today shows a big change in the popularity of the leading contenders for both the Democratic and Republican nominations. Iowa is the first political event of the year, and according to the poll, President Carter is far ahead of Senator Kennedy, and Mr Ronald Reagan has lost half his support.

Five weeks ago Mr Carter and Senator Kennedy both had 40 per cent of Iowa Democrats in their camp. In today's poll, published by the *Des Moines Register*, the President has the support of 57 per cent, Mr Kennedy 25 per cent and Governor Jerry Brown, California, 4 per cent, with 14 per cent undecided.

This strong swing to the President is despite his decision to halt the export of grain to the Soviet Union. Much of that grain would have come from Iowa. Despite Government intervention, prices have dropped sharply. Senator Kennedy has denounced the grain export embargo, but evidently has not impressed Iowans. Mr Brown has hardly campaigned in the State, and his poor showing, although undoubtedly embarrassing for him, does not necessarily put him out of the race.

Mr Kennedy, of course, will do well in some of the early primaries, at the very least, and hopes that President Carter's present popularity will decline, as it has after earlier rises.

On the Republican side, the swing against Mr Reagan is startling. In December, the last poll gave him 50 per cent of Republican voters. Senator Howard Baker 11 per cent, Mr Bush 14 per cent, Mr John Connally 12 per cent.

In today's poll, Mr Reagan is down to 26 per cent, Senator Baker has 18 per cent, Mr Bush 17 and Mr Connally 10. There are three other candidates: Senator Robert Dole gets 6 per cent, Representative Philip Crane 6 per cent and Representative John Anderson 1 per cent.

The poll was taken after the public debate between six of the seven Republican candidates a week ago. The debate was organized by the *Des Moines Register* and televised throughout the State. Mr Reagan's catastrophic drop in popularity is presumably chiefly due to the fact that he did not participate in the debate. He had calculated that, as the frontrunner, he did not need to appear before an Iowa audience of that sort, submitting himself to the indignity of argument with rivals he considered doomed to defeat. Iowans seem to resent this attitude.

Rival groups clash again in Tabriz

Tabriz, Jan 11.—Fighting broke out again here today between supporters of the Muslim People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), which supports Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, and Revolutionary Guards loyal to Ayatollah Khomeini.

At least one person was killed and four injured when MPRP supporters attacked a mosque, defended by Revolutionary Guards. MPRP members said they wanted to arrest a *mullah* who was speaking there. Sporadic shooting went on for about three hours after which the building was evacuated.

MPRP sources said their forces entered the mosque and found the body of one of their supporters had been strangled. The report was confirmed by other sources at the scene.

Earlier, about 50,000 Khomeini supporters marched through the city centre after mass prayers in the square. Yesterday, Tabriz radio, loyal to Ayatollah Khomeini, called on his supporters to attend the prayers in force and deal a blow to what it termed "plotters", a thinly disguised reference to the MPRP.

Iran has sent a warrant to Panama for the arrest of the Shah in an attempt to have the exiled monarch extradited, the state radio said today.

It broadcast the text of a letter from Mr Sadegh Ouzdeh, the Foreign Minister, to President Aristides Royo of Panama. Embassy proposals: The United States today presented the Security Council with a draft resolution asking United Nations members to embargo everything normally sold to Iran except food, medicine and medical-related items until the American hostages held in Tehran are freed and allowed to leave Iran safely.—Agence France-Presse.

400 homeless after cyclone

Perrin, Jan 11.—Rescue workers today began airlifting to safety 400 people left homeless when a cyclone hit the isolated mining town of Goldsworthy, about 1,000 miles north of here in Western Australia. The cyclone, now dying out, reared through the town yesterday, causing some £10m of damage and forcing many of the 1,000 residents to flee to an office block and power station for safety. The town is still cut off by floods.—Reuters.

AFGHANISTAN

Moscow dismisses US sanctions with contempt but fears new American alliance with Chinese

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Jan 11

The Soviet Union cannot be strangled by the "bony hand of hunger", the Russians remarked contemptuously of President Carter's grain embargo. Western attempts to put pressure on Soviet policy would come to nothing, they said.

But this defiant statement conceals the very real threat felt by ordinary Russians on learning of the embargo. In a country where rumour more than makes up for the lack of official information, people are already stocking up with flour, wondering whether there will ever be meat in the shops again.

The reaction of an ordinary housewife is typical: "We don't mind going short. We just don't want war."

President Carter has said the Russians must pay for their Afghan adventure. The question is how much? Now, hurtful will be the shortfall of 17 million tons of grain, the embargo on the export of oil and gas, and the loss of equipment and technology, the cutting of cultural links?

There is no doubt the unexpected grain embargo will severely affect the meat supply. The United States Department of Agriculture says that livestock will have to be reduced by at least 10 per cent, and that meat output already stagnating at about 15,300,000 tons this year, will fall to 14 million tons next year.

If Canada, Europe and Australia do not increase their grain sales, there will only be about five million tons available for purchase on the world market. In America had allowed all 25 million tons to be exported, the Russians would still have had to draw about 16 million tons from storage to maintain herds at present levels after this year's poor harvest.

How much the Russians have in store is a closely guarded secret. It can be assumed the amount is substantial, but Moscow, always conscious of wartime needs, is reluctant to draw on these and would never exhaust the reserves. But though the embargo may mean two or three lean years, in the long run it will help, not hurt, the consumer. Grain production has now become a visible question of national prestige. The Russians are acutely aware that the biggest agricultural country in the world has to depend on its main adversary to produce enough meat.

Now that President Carter has shown that agriculture has strategic significance, it will have to be developed like bombs and rockets. The Kremlin can no longer simply pour in money and hope for higher production: it must mobilize the country in a national effort so that never again will the Soviet Union have to place such massive orders for grain. As Tass remarked, it may well be the United States, the seller, that suffers more in the long run.

The Russians affect a nonchalance about the embargo on oil technology which hides the vital importance of developing Soviet energy resources quickly, both to earn hard currency and to satisfy obligations at home and to Eastern Europe.

But again the hold-up may prove a blessing. In the Brezhnev years it has been possible to enforce the frustrating ideological limitations on scientific inquiry because the high technology products that were never brought to birth in the stifling atmosphere could always be bought from the West.

They may still come from the West. Marxists know how to exploit the profit-oriented markets of capitalism better than capitalists. Someone will always sell what is needed.

But Soviet technocrats now have a far more powerful argument to convince a hide-bound leadership that they need more freedom to encourage genuine technological innovation.

As far as cultural contacts are concerned, the Russians will be spiritually poorer, but the Communist Party will be ideologically safer from spying from the West at arm's length.

But one effect of the intervention will hurt: the rapprochement of the Americans and the Chinese. Fear of China is deeply embedded in every Russian. No dissident will support President Carter for forming military links with Peking.

The fruitless Sino-Soviet talks in Moscow last autumn showed that the gap with China is now unbridgeable. And it now appears that every Russian's nightmare—military encirclement by powerful enemies—has been brought that much closer.

Fear of China is largely what clinched the Afghan decision in the first place. Soviet policy planners watched with alarm the blossoming of Sino-American friendship last year with reciprocal visits by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese deputy Prime Minister, and Vice-President Walter Mondale.

They saw Salt crumbling while the Chinese rejected, and Europe rearming itself. In such a situation détente with the West had no future: the Soviet Union had to act in its own national interests.

The Russians, surprised by American retaliatory measures, have nevertheless been remarkably restrained so far for several reasons.

First, the leadership knows that apart from the military links with China, Mr Carter's actions do not affect Soviet security.

Indeed, Moscow is secretly hoping for a strengthening of central authority and pro-Western feeling in Pakistan. As with Iran and Afghanistan under the old king, Moscow can develop good relations with stable governments, whatever their political leanings. But the moment a left-wing revolution engulfs a country, they feel obliged to support it for almost religious feelings of ideology.

The centre, as they found in Cuba years ago, can be high. Secondly, the Russians do not want to inflame things any further. They may still believe a business relationship with America is possible, or that military confrontation be avoided if not for the Salt treaties, then by some other means.

Finally, the Russians know that Mr Carter's measures are more symbolic than effective. They will not change Soviet policy towards Afghanistan. They have increased, rather than lessened, the American dilemma in Iran by removing the military option.

Sipping tea amid the thud of mortar shells

From Ian Murray, Jalalabad, Jan 11

At the Khyber gateway to Afghanistan a large red sign tells visitors: "Welcome to the land of the new modern constitution." The first word is "Welcome". The first word is "Welcome".

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Guerrillas fight on wide front

From Our Special Correspondent, Peshawar, Jan 11

Afghan Mujahideen insurgents are continuing to resist Soviet-backed forces in running battles over much of the country, according to reports reaching here.

From claims made by groups of insurgents some areas are firmly in their control, while others are being fought over.

What is left of the Afghan conscript army is being pressed on a wide front and could not hold on without heavy Soviet support.

According to these claims the guerrillas have captured the town of Taloqan in the north-east province of Takhar, bordering the Soviet Union, while heavy fighting is continuing in Badkshan which also flanks Russia.

Other groups claim to control part of Nangrahar province, near Jalalabad, where a long battle continues in larger towns and cities throughout the country. Soviet support troops are said to be digging in to prepare for guerrilla attacks.

With the new regime in Afghanistan imposing even stricter controls in larger towns and cities throughout the country, guerrilla propaganda continues to exaggerate claims though some of their spokesmen here admit they are suffering heavy losses from guerrilla attacks.

Journalists who arrived from Afghanistan during the past 24 hours say Soviet transport aircraft have been seen airlifting reinforcements into Kandahar province in the south. The road between there and Kabul is said to be besieged by guerrillas who have cut it in several places.

Soviet troops are understood to be moving into positions to hold the road open for essential supplies. Other sources say the Soviet build-up continues with convoys heading south from the Uzbek and Turkmen Republics. Three divisions are thought to have arrived during the past week, bringing the total Soviet strength to around 85,000.

Even so it seems that this force is being held in reserve as a backup to the Afghan army, which is doing most of the fighting on the ground. If guerrilla claims are to be believed the Afghan army is dispirited and large-scale desertion continues. One group claims that so many troops have deserted that it is difficult to feed and shelter them.

Whatever the accuracy of the claims there is reason to believe the Soviet presence in Afghanistan is not winning many favours which have been fighting communist regimes in the country for nearly two years.

Envoys may go to the Gulf states for financial help in the name of Islam, now that the Afghan conflict has been declared a Muslim holy war.

The *Pakistan Times* suggests that Russia has been forced to move into Afghanistan because of the international upsurge of Islam.

The article says: "The moral of Soviet action in Afghanistan is simply this: that the Soviet Union considers Islam is the only force to be reckoned with, for this is an ideology which does not abhor the use of the sword in self defence."

India, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman told reporters, has no reason to doubt an assurance given by a friendly country like the Soviet Union that it will withdraw its troops from Afghanistan "when the Afghan Government wants".

India's position goes on to criticize the United States, emphasizing that the Soviet action cannot be viewed in isolation.

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Soviet troops leave their 57mm anti-aircraft gun unattended on a hillside near Kabul while they confer in the snow.

No casualties in limited Soviet contingent, Mr Karmal says

From Robert Fisk, Kabul, Jan 11

A Russian soldier with a red star on his fur hat stood guard outside the Chekhov Palace in Kabul while Mr Babrak Karmal was trying to prove to the world that his country had not become a client kingdom of the Soviet Union.

A Russian tracked armoured vehicle also stood in the grounds and a Soviet anti-aircraft gun crew waited in the snow beside their weapons a hundred yards from the main door.

So when Afghanistan's new President told us that the only thing brighter than sunshine in the Soviet Union was the Soviet Union, one could only regard it as a uniquely optimistic, if not Olympian, view of the world affairs that Dr Faustus would have envied.

Even the Afghan officials present, however, must have been struck by the presence of some subtle Mephistopheles to soften the rhetoric as Mr Karmal's press conference descended into an angry and occasionally abusive shouting match.

The questions which the Western press put to Mr Karmal were often more interesting than his replies, but highlights of the affair would have to include the following statements by Afghanistan's new President:

1. Not one Soviet soldier has been killed or wounded since the Russian military intervention started on December 27.

2. The size of the "very limited Soviet contingent" sent to Afghanistan had been grossly exaggerated by the "imperialist press".

3. The Soviet Union had supported the "brutal" regime of President Hafizullah Amin, who died in the December coup, because "the Soviet Union would never interfere in the internal affairs of any country".

Mr Karmal replied: "Mr Karmal, who was once a bitter opponent within the pro-communist People's Democratic Party of Mr Nur Mohamed Taraki, the assassinated President whose 'marrydome' Mr Karmal now lays at the hands of the CIA, is the son of a high-ranking Peshawar army officer and he repeatedly extolled the virtues of Afghan independence. He is a heavily built man with a prominent nose, high cheekbones and graying hair whose anger appeared most frequently when reporters suggested, however absurdly, that he might be some kind of strapping of the Soviet Union," he said.

"On the basis of its peaceful foreign policy, has always supported and advocated the peoples of the world in their struggle for justice, freedom and independence."

When we left the palace an hour later, the Soviet soldiers were still standing in the snow outside, guarding Afghanistan's President from the conspiracies which the believes are being concocted against him.

The BBC received similar treatment when Mr Gavin Hewitt of BBC Television asked Mr Karmal what percentage of the population supported him, adding that correspondents had noticed that some Afghans viewed him with distrust.

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That was all—Mr Hewitt obtained no answer to his question whether he did other correspondents, despite repeated shouts of "answer the question" from dozens of reporters.

Whether Mr Karmal expected such pointed questions from Western correspondents is a moot point, although most reporters had expected the attitude adopted by Mr Karmal. This was perhaps best illustrated by his courageous, some might even say foolhardy, assertion that "a true non-alignment for Afghanistan can be obtained with the material and moral help of the Soviet Union."

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Oman warns West of Soviet peril in Gulf

From David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent, Muscat, Jan 11

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, was given an Arab warning today that the West must not be caught napping by the Russians in the strategic waters of the Gulf of Oman.

Since the invasion of Afghanistan, which is seen by the Sultan of Oman as a threat close to his own part of the world, Oman would like increased arms, training and military support from the West.

"There is no doubt that the Soviet Union followed a policy of expansionism and used every opportunity, whether through lack of resolve by the West or the West being caught napping," Mr Qasbi Zayawi, the Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said today.

"They have and will continue to take military action to intervene whenever the possibilities and opportunities arise. We feel they will not be content to remain on the sidelines, if they are allowed to move further south to warm waters, into the Gulf of Oman," he told Lord Carrington.

The threat closest to home, as Sultan Qabous made clear in a two-hour talk with the Foreign Secretary today, is South Yemen. Though there is no trouble across the frontier at present, the Omanis are continually anxious about the future.

More widely, there is an obvious risk to the interests of the Western world as a whole in the narrow channel for oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz, which Lord Carrington is going to view by helicopter tomorrow.

The Omanis, whose army is trained and led by about 500 British officers, are not seeking a Western military presence, still less the arrival of the American fleet.

"We want to defend ourselves," Mr Zayawi said. "What we want is for the West to help us defend ourselves. If the Russians intervene in the area, then we would expect a response by the Americans, to redress the balance."

Lord Carrington's visit here is seen as a way of expressing British support. Clearly, events in Afghanistan have had the effect of halting any tendency there was to reduce the British commitment to Oman. It will be maintained and where practicable be strengthened.

But the limiting factor is likely to be the Omani military's capacity to take over responsibility.

Britain recalls ambassador from Kabul

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Mr Norman Hillier-Fry, British Ambassador in Kabul, has been summoned to London for consultations with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, it was learnt last night.

He has already left for Delhi and will fly from there to Islamabad for talks with Lord Carrington during the Foreign Secretary's tour of the Gulf states and Central Asia, before returning to London.

In common with other Western countries Britain has not yet recognized the new

Saturday Review

Below: Aldo Moro, photographed by his kidnappers, the Red Brigades, in March, 1978: no victim has ever felt more betrayed, nor voiced his sense of betrayal more publicly.



The captive mind

by Caroline Moorehead

Carla Ovesza is the mother-in-law of Giovanni Agnelli's only daughter. The connection with the president of Fiat, Italy's largest and most prestigious company, is tenuous in a family where there are 73 cousins, but enough for a gang of Northern Italian kidnappers to select her as victim in the late autumn of 1975. They chose her because, unlike the direct Fiat descendancy, she was not guarded. And they could not believe that the richest man in Italy would not be ashamed into paying £10m to get her back.

Signora Ovesza was seized from behind as she parked her Mini in front of her flat in Turin one winter evening after work. She was shoved brusquely into the back of a car and covered in rugs for a long, acutely uncomfortable journey that involved many car changes and frequent blows from the head when she tried to get out for air. Late that night she found herself manacled by the ankle to a bed in a small, damp room; there was no heat, no light, and only one thin cover. She spent 35 days there, in the dark, with nothing to do, hardly able to move, often so cold she could not sleep, her ears packed with wax and covered in sticky plaster to prevent her overhearing the faintest of sounds.

She had high blood pressure, bad sinusitis, and thought she was bound to die. Every few days she was allowed a couple of inches of freezing water to wash her face; on one occasion the guard flung it over her in rage that the negotiations for her ransom were going so badly. Three times a day the guard brought meals, and as the days passed look to telling her that her ears were about to be chopped off and sent to Giovanni Agnelli if he did not pay up. Eventually, they cropped her hair instead and sent him that, together with photographs of her naked from the waist up. Signora Ovesza was not particularly robust woman, and already in her mid-fifties, but she survived. In conditions that have come to be called "sensory deprivation", when the

mind, deprived of sight, hearing, and all human contact, hallucinates, she wandered back to the days when, a Jewish refugee from fascist Italy, she escaped to America with her family. She struggled to make a little exercise, dragging her chain after her along the floor in complete darkness.

Most of all, she dreaded the long nights, the space between dinner at seven and breakfast next morning at nine when she could not sleep for cold and the fear of the promised mutilation, and when she cried out and begged her guards to keep her company, talk to her, about anything, just so that she could recall the sound of a human voice.

And after the fear of death and torture came that of betrayal, a conviction that grew with every day that she had been forgotten. Her guards told her that her husband and sons had all gone off skiing for the Christmas holidays; it was a small step from there to force her to write a begging and humiliating letter to Giovanni Agnelli's wife. "Now only you," she wrote, "with your power, can be in time to save me, to prevent me dying for an unjust cause. . . I beg you to believe that this is the truth. I swear it to you on the head of Margherita and Alain and the coming grandchild that perhaps I will never have the joy of knowing. . . Reproaches, written in despair and mistrust, received with anguish."

Once the actual trauma of being kidnapped begins to dull, when the numbing sensation of sickness and disbelief fades, every victim is left only with the power of his own nature to help him endure what is to come. Some have survived by prayer, some by routine, most by a ferocious personal battle against despair. But the terror of betrayal, of having been forgotten and left to die alone, is possibly the most painful of sensations and certainly the one most peculiar to hostages. It is a terror cheerfully encouraged by kidnappers, who see in the growing bitterness and paranoia a chance to exploit ever more

scrupulous and self pitying of letters.

No victim has ever felt more betrayed, nor voiced his sense of betrayal more publicly, than Aldo Moro, leader of the Italian Christian Democrat Party and, at the time of his kidnapping by the Red Brigades in Rome in March, 1978, widely tipped as Italy's next President. The man who was a great conciliator in a country of conciliation, the master of the meaningless phrase that became known as *morosismo* (persuading those of opposing views that they really agree) could be forgiven for assuming that in this, as in everything else, the Italian government was flexible.

Aldo Moro was kidnapped just after nine o'clock one morning during a short drive from the church of Santa Chiara in Monte Mario where he had taken communion to Parliament. But while the country showed its horror in a vast manhunt for his kidnappers and in a strike that closed schools, factories and offices, the Government found another type of unity in an absolute determination not to make political concessions in exchange for his life.

The first notice of the Red Brigades terms for Moro's release came not from them, but in a letter from Moro to his old friend, Francesco Cossiga, then Minister of the Interior. The letter was cautious, rational in tone. In it, with considerable dignity, Moro explained that he was on trial both for his own political misdeeds and in the name of the entire Christian Democrat leadership. There was no threat, just an underlying warning of impending confessions. But they are already the words of a man who is adapting to his captors, who is beginning to see kidnapping and blackmail not as a statesman does but in the terms of the guerrillas who had captured him. "The sacrifice of the innocents in the name of an

abstract principle is inadmissible," he wrote. The issue "is not one of human compassion, but the exchange of some prisoners of war (war or guerrilla warfare) if you prefer, which is common practice in times of war."

As the days, and then the weeks, passed and Moro came to realize that the very Government he had fought so hard to create was going to be united against saving his life, so the dignity faltered. The photographs the Red Brigades took of him under their spotlighted star show his pained smile and lethargic expression grow still more languid. When on April 20, the Government refused to release 13 political prisoners in return for Moro's life, the letters to the party leaders became fretful and bitter. "Your yes and your no are decisive. . . he told the party secretary Zaccagnini. "You will never throw this weight of guilt off your shoulders." On April 24 came the cry of a man who has been finally betrayed.

"The Christian Democrats," he wrote, "should not delude themselves that by liquidating Moro they have got rid of the problem. I shall be there as an inescapable point of confrontation and dissension. . . Because of this, because of our evident incompatibility, I ask that neither the power of the State nor the men of the party attend my funeral. I ask that I be followed only by the few who really wish me well and are thus worthy to accompany me with their prayers and with their love."

That day, 50 of Moro's friends signed a statement and issued it to the papers. "This is not the Moro we knew," they declared, "with the spiritual, political and constitutional vision that went into drawing up our Republic." Moro was now declared sick.

Long after it was useless, long after the Government had declared beyond all possible doubt that there was no deal to be made, Moro kept fighting for his life. In a letter to his wife published only much later, after his body had been found wedged sideways in the boot of a car, but probably written at the end of April, he was still searching wildly for solutions. Go to the Parliamentary groups, he begged. See if they won't split the Government and support me. If that fails, how about placing me in one of the new high security prisons while I deal with the Red Brigades? Is it as if the words grow fainter and fainter, as he is whirled away shouting and protesting in the eye of a storm.



After it became a 'chancy business to be a diplomat or a foreigner working in Latin America for a multinational company with a name like Exxon or Ford people kidnapped by guerrillas were no longer quite so unprepared. By the early 1970's the old Anglo-South American clubs of Montevideo and Buenos Aires were full of recounting their favourite kidnapping story. So as the hood closed over their heads, or the stalled car in front revealed four masked gunmen, victims took to remembering their predecessors in their minds the instructions their security officers had given them.

Geoffrey Jackson, British Ambassador to Uruguay, had known that it was coming. He had watched the new guerrilla tactic sweeping southwards and suspected a couple of recent curious telephone calls and an offer to sell cheap wine as well as an unusual number of near collisions in his car as a prelude to kidnapping. He was therefore not surprised when on January 8, 1970, a group of Tupamaros stopped his car as he was driving to work, knocked out his chauffeur, handcuffed his wrists, gave him a sedative injection, and led him off to a cage one metre wide and two metres long. In Jackson, there was something of the Christian martyr preparing to die. "I felt a principle was at stake," he explained several years later. "I felt a growing sense of outrage about this new technique of going for diplomats. It had to be stopped. I hoped that if I were taken I would get through to the international community and coalesce all nations." In a sense, he did. His behaviour is remembered all over the world.

Geoffrey Jackson spent 244 days unbolting his belief, filthy, sometimes hungry, occasionally frightened, but adamant. When his hooded jailers derided the Queen, Jackson admonished them. They apologized. "A modus vivendi was my policy. We talked. I sketched little caricatures of them, we played cards. But I avoided all favour seeking, all subservience. . . He kept going by taking exercise, specialising on possible improvements to his surroundings, drawing up a calendar so open ended it left no room for dreams of release and reading Don Quixote, Shakespeare and Anna Karenina. Though they were rotated to prevent too intimate a relationship building up, he had time to grow fond

of his jailers. "I kept a reserve of food, seeing that supplies were an irregular. When it ran out I shared what I had. They were kids. I was a middle-aged man. I felt sorry for them." He had no doubt at all that if the order came they would kill him, but as the months went by he sensed that it would pain them to carry out the execution.

The political hostages of most terrorist groups have had in common more than the ideology of their captors and the conditions in which they are kept. Many have shared Jackson's obduracy and courage, his determination never to beg or plead, a stubborn integrity that became, sometimes, a credo for survival in captivity. Early on in his eight month sentence Geoffrey Jackson set certain rules about how his kidnappers were to address him. He would answer to "Jackson" or "Señor" but not to "Cell No. 10". Neither the usual Italian judge called di Gennaro held by a terrorist group in Rome would drink with their jailers. When a young man mocked di Gennaro for accepting a cigarette with the words "You're spoiling the judge gave him the cigarette. Filthy, smelly, sometimes half naked, what sustained these men was a belief in the superiority of self discipline."



For most captives, held for however short a time, and in whatever conditions, the problem they face is boredom. Stark, empty, often blind hours of nothing. They do not even know how much time has passed, since kidnappers invariably saying that an obsession with passing time makes them more restless. It is the individual ingenuity of captives to handle this condition that makes each account unique.

Luigi Rossi di Montelera, heir to the Fiat fortune, spent four months in an underground pit, with water dripping off the ceiling. Within days of his capture he had devised a clock. He noticed that the overflow of water from one of his cell seemed to occur in a regular cycle, and worked out that it must be caused by ice melting in the boiler air of morning. (As it turned out, he got it wrong: later he had the inside of his cell dismantled so that he had been living 36 hour days.) Aldo Canavale, another Italian, started the first day of his 11 day sentence drawing up a timetable; he did everything as slowly as he could and put up with hours of mental pain with regular physical exercise. He was delighted when his kidnappers brought him my model aeroplanes to build.

Louis Hazan, director of a record company in Paris, told us that he was kidnapped and held for 10 days in 1975 by a criminal gang, he revisited in his mind Casablanca where he was born, but which he had left at the age of 20. In his middle fifties, manacled to a bed in the dankness of a prison cell, he spent hours reworking streets he had not thought about for over 30 years, entering shops, passing to buy presents and drink in the cafés.

Another businessman, Fernando Rossi, kidnapped by his factory in Sinaloa in Sardinia, resolutely ignored the absolute refusal of his jailers to speak to him. He spoke to them instead, endlessly, hour after hour, about sport and politics, trade and tourism, the weather, astronomy, anything he could think of.

Indeed for some victims of political kidnappings the solution to boredom has lain in the kidnappers themselves: stockpiled decent and hard working American executives have been astonished and fascinated to discover that the guerrillas they had always assumed to be thugs were in fact polite and highly educated university graduates who only too eagerly engaged them in well researched discussions about the economics and politics of their country. But in the end all hostages wish to exhaust themselves and sleep, even if sleep brings nightmares.

Geoffrey Jackson regularly dreamt that the back half of a black cat walked across his cell. By day, there is food to think about. Carla Ovesza concentrated almost exclusively on every common meal: would there be hot milk? An apple? Luigi Rossi di Montelera in his account of his captivity, lingers lovingly over the Caprice des Alpes and the Camembert, the meat, chicken and pasta, the different sorts of wine, whisky and champagne his otherwise taciturn captors only too eagerly brought him in the absence of light, small, touch and sound, taste becomes extraordinarily important.

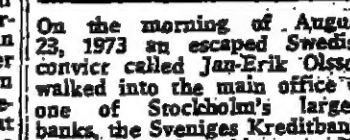
several weeks, his asthma vanished. Two months after his release, it came back.

Saying clearly and correctly, stressed, has for some hostages been more important than any fear of death or misery or boredom. For the first three days of his captivity Luigi Rossi refused to lie on his bed fully dressed in a three piece suit. When his jailers asked what they could get for him, he requested a tin of Quikies, a requested a razor. It was one of his captors who told him that he should influence the sense of disgust, of having been sullied. "The strongest feeling I had," one hostage told me, "was that one man told me, 'was that I had become nothing but a bit of property to be haggle over'."

And yet no amount of mental exercises, no memories of childhood prayer have in the end protected any hostage from sudden onslaughts. Luigi Rossi di Montelera kept his feet outside the cell has meant a guard come to kill, the funny taste in the coffee a drug from which there may be no return. "For the first 48 hours I did not dare go to sleep," one hostage told me. "Every click, every sound meant disaster. It was as if I was in a state of 'constant moral violence'."

By relentless daily routine Luigi Rossi di Montelera kept his morale remarkably high. One day he was told that the ransom had been paid and that he would be released. He got ready. No one came. When he realized it was all a mistake, he collapsed, miserable, depressed, confused.

When a girl called Rossella Rossini was released in San Marino in 1973 she explained: "Nothing counts during a kidnapping any more except that slow, strange understanding that you have managed to survive one more hour, one more minute."



On the morning of August 23, 1973 an escaped Swedish convict called Jan-Erik Olsson walked into the main office of one of Stockholm's largest banks, the Sveriges Kreditbank, carrying a submachine gun. He took several hostages, two of them young girls. During the six days of their captivity these prisoners developed a curious affection for the gunman and a fellow convict who had come to join him, an intimacy and a reliance on the man, and a corresponding sullenness towards everyone else, that puzzled the police and psychiatrists who waited to free them. As the gunmen were finally being led off by the police one of the girls rose up from the stretcher on which she was lying and called out "Clark, I'll see you again." Long afterwards, Olsson explained to the police that he could never have killed his hostages: he had got to know them too well.

Some time later the phrase "Stockholm syndrome" was coined, probably in America, to explain this strange affection the victims of kidnappings and sieges come to feel for the people who hold them prisoner, and the kidnappers for their hostages. I wish I could work for someone like you, a Calabrian kidnapper said rather wistfully to a Milanese businessman he was guarding. And on the morning the gunmen of the Indonesian Consulate siege in the Hague surrendered, one of them wrote on a girl hostage's T-shirt: "We are like two trees. Fate separates us, but our hands reach across it." Thirteen days before, he had held a gun at her head until she became hysterical.

In victims, what starts as a primitive urge for survival can turn into fondness. Psychiatrists explain it as a return to infancy, to the days when the human baby depends on others for survival. Another explanation is that since it is impossible to sustain the agony and anxiety of being a victim, the person who is kidnapped soon makes the jump, identifies with his captor, and in order to keep his self-esteem convinces himself that the captor is not a criminal at all, but someone who needs understanding and sympathy.

One of the hostages held by the South Moluccans on the island of Irian Jaya in 1975 was a newspaper editor called Gerard Vaders. Months after the ordeal was over, and he was back in his newspaper office, Vaders told an American psychiatrist called Frank Oubers, "You had to fight a certain feeling of compassion for the Moluccans. I know this is not natural, but in some way they came over as human. They gave us cigarettes. They gave us blankets. But we also recognized that they were killers. You try to suppress that in your consciousness. . . I also knew that they were victims as we were. Even more. You saw the morale crumbling. . . You couldn't help but feel a certain pity. For people at the beginning with ego like gods—impregnable, invincible, feeling all that was in vain."

The form the affection takes, psychiatrists say, is determined by the age and sex of kidnapper and victim. Judge di Gennaro and Geoffrey Jackson both spoke of their guards as if they were the misguided children of

their own friends, in an avuncular and sometimes parricidal way. In women, the affection has on occasion turned into romantic attachment, sexuality providing a way of coping with the intense insecurity. A magistrate in Rome told me that in several of the cases he had handled where the kidnapper victim was a young girl, it would have been possible to have added a charge of rape to that of kidnapping. The girls had refused, ashamed and embarrassed about the possible publicity.

One of the most publicized cases of recent years in Italy was that of Giovanna Amati, the 18-year-old daughter of a cinema proprietor. In the weeks following her release two bunches of red roses were delivered to Giovanna's home in Rome. They came from her kidnapper. Finally the girl agreed—perhaps she never agreed, no one knows for certain—to lay a trap for him. He did not turn up for the first meeting, in front of the Colosseum. But he came to the second, by the Majestic cinema in the Via Barberini, and there the police picked him up. In prison, Giovanna showed only "Daniel, Daniel, why are they arresting you?" She told reporters that he had given her an Easter egg.

Now that the Stockholm syndrome has entered popular psychology, and many nappies and victims have heard all about the softening influences of prolonged contact, there has been a shift in the rules. Now, wary kidnappers try to avoid intimacy, fearful lest it should influence the tough line they intend to take. Victims on the other hand try consciously to build up a relationship with their captors, taking extreme care not to provoke rage by contentious and critical remarks.

The intimacy, the breakdown of pride, does not however come easily to every hostage. The Stockholm syndrome cannot be fabricated out of hostility and rage. It has taken the certainty of death to release in some victims the very signs of humanity that then make it impossible for their captors to kill them. Sitting on his wooden bed in a cellar beneath Rome, held by people who seemed to take pleasure in tormenting him, Judge di Gennaro gradually became certain that he was not going to be allowed to live.

"There is fear when you have some hope," he told me. "None when that has gone. I realized that it was useless to plead. I felt myself to be a sort of sacrificial victim, and I felt too a kind of satisfaction that I would be killed for the right things that I had done. Then I said to them: 'You have provided me with a valuable experience. I was brave when I was young, in the war. I have since lost that. Now you have given me a chance to be brave again.' They did not kill him."



I asked everyone I spoke to whether the experience had altered them. Most started by denying it. But then Alfredo Daneli, the Italian coffee heir, told me that until he was kidnapped he had been both ambitious, and extremely over-sensitive about what his colleagues and friends thought about him. Now he does not mind anything quite so much; he does not work such long hours, nor plan so eagerly for the future. Judge di Gennaro said that he no longer gets angry. "I enjoy things more, but at a distance, as if detached."

The loss of ambition and mild indifference to life have been so widely noted that some large companies have been reluctant to entrust executives who were kidnapped ever again with positions of responsibility. It is not just that some have been physically weakened by the ordeal, nor that some companies have had to part with fortunes to get them back. It is something subtler, to do with confidence, caring about worldly success. We had to get him out," an American official has been quoted as saying about a kidnapped senior member of his staff. "He would have destroyed morale."

Psychiatrists do not agree on whether it is better to get released hostages to talk out their experience, or let them forget it. Those who do talk make it plain that the Stockholm syndrome is something that lasts long after the release. Even so, it is hard for parents who watched a siege on television with loathing for the men who were holding their daughter prisoner, to hear her say calmly later how kind they were to her and how fond she grew of them. Giovanna Amati's father, first disbelieving, then horrified, as the truth about his daughter's feelings for the gangster kidnapper came out, said at last that he believed she had gone mad.

Caroline Moorehead has based this article on her book *Forcible Hostages, Kidnapping in the World Today*, which is published next Thursday by Hamish Hamilton at £8.95.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK

Clive Barnes

Eternal Oklahoma

The theatrical image I shall maintain of the change of the decade oddly enough came from television. It was the sight, on a television newscast, of the current Broadway company of *Oklahoma* lined up by the footlights and singing, incongruously but appropriately, the title song from the *Sound of Music*. It was, of course, a tribute to the late emperor of the Broadway musical, Richard Rodgers. Indeed the sound of his music has echoed through our lives—we have lived by it, loved by it, and are all measurably the poorer by his death, while immeasurably the richer for his life. His immortality will be in the voices of people yet unborn.

There is little point to add here to the obituaries. The man will be remembered as long as music is remembered. His tunes, with their sweet simplicity, swiftly to our hearts and lifted up our spirits. With hundreds of songs and two great periods—Rodgers and Hammerstein—he transformed the shape, the style, and most of all the seriousness of the American musical theatre.

Last season he had a sort of failure with *I Remember Mama*, starring Liv Ullmann. I say sort of failure because although it lost a Shaiikh's ransom in cash, and ran a fugitively short time, it had some lovely songs in it—given miserably short-shrift by most of our New York critics, not always most distinguished. However, just a few days before he died, Rodgers must have had the considerable satisfaction of discovering that *Oklahoma* was still a major hit. I wonder if he took any note of the fact that in 1979 the dear old musical got far more notices than it ever received when it was fresh as paint in 1942. Not that it is not as fresh as paint today but now it has been caught up by the ennobling forces of classicism.

The thing that strikes everyone—except the tone-deaf and stone-deaf—about *Oklahoma* is the score. Virtually every number is a hit—something that was never achieved before. *Showboat* and *Porgy and Bess* coming closest, and has only been achieved once after, with *My Fair Lady*. But in a way what was more important, and what made *Oklahoma* such a landmark in the musical theatre, was its new homogeneity, its specific blend of music, drama and dance, and its new seriousness. Some of this was at least foreshadowed in Rodgers and Hart's controversial *Pal Joey*, but *Oklahoma* was the breakthrough.

Curiously enough when the show was new in 1943 the critics of the time liked it well enough but had little idea of its implications or revolutionary spirit. Stark Young, for example, wrote: "It reminds us at times of a good college show. . . . And when *Oklahoma* made it to London four years later, although the reviews were more enthusiastic, the then senior reviewer, James Agate, was still able to sum it up as: "Bouquet, yes; body, no". The present Broadway production is not exactly a reproduction of the original, but it is not too far removed. The new scenery by Michael J. Horroff and Paul de Pass looks pretty much like the old, as do the new costumes by Bill Garate.

The new version—I hate the word revival, no one talks about a revival of *Rigoletto*—has been directed with a sort of traditional pizzazz by William Hammerstein, the author's son. Agate de Mille's choreography has been recreated by Genze de Lappe, and Miss de Mille has personally supervised the entire show. This is totally appropriate, for de Mille's contribution to the musical's entire fabric was, and is, essential. The curious thing is that the long ballet sequence, that special dream ballet, makes up the entire show. It is the one part of the musical that seems dated. The rest of the dancing, beautifully melded into the production and was, in its time, trail-blazing.

Perhaps the best news of this *Oklahoma* is that it has all the cast of an original. This is largely due to a young and talented cast. Laurence Cullard, with his strong baritone voice and easy charm, is one of the best Curlys I have ever encountered—you can almost see his horse. Christine Andreas, round, plump, bouncy and wholesome, makes a lovely Laurie. Will Parker and Christine Ebersole are baysed delights as Will Parker and the cannot-say-no girl, Ado Annie. Martin Vidnovic makes an impressively malevolent Jud (recalling Rod Steiger in the movie) and Bruce Adler is cheerfully perky as the unput-downable Peddler, Ali Hakim.

The most authentic performance, however, came from Mary Wickes as Aunt Eller apart from the fact that she looks remarkably like Miss de Mille herself and has almost de Mille's style and manner, her pioneer presence and non-sense loquacity illuminates the whole show.

The new production of *Nutcracker* in Los Angeles is highly ambitious. The company, directed by former New York City Ballet principal, John Clifford, has been running for five years now, largely despite a generally hostile local press. The *Nutcracker*, which cost \$400,000, was a major adventure, once again dismissed scornfully by the local scribbler. A pity this, because the company has its own freshness and energy—brash and Californian in style in this rather like the San Francisco ballet—and the production is of unusual interest.



John Clifford: classic ensembles

The company's young musical director, Clyde Allen, is also a composer and musicologist, and he undertook a great deal of research on the original *Nutcracker*. Some of Petipa's notes to Tchaikovsky have been known a long time in the West, but here Dr Allen obtained a complete translation from Soviet Russia—in fact, a translation of Petipa's original French—and Clifford has used these meticulously in the first act, matching every movement to the music, and complying with Petipa's requests (for two devil-dolls, for example) to the letter. The result is both engrossing and dramatic.

Elsewhere Clifford has borrowed here and there from his own alma mater, the Balanchine School, but invented a few gracefully classic ensembles of his own, and uses the children picked up from local schools—very exceptional vivacity. One fascinating musical novelty is the first inclusion of the "English Dance" in the divertissement, which has never been used in any production before. The piano score is an addendum to the Soviet orchestral score, and Dr Allen took it away and orchestrated it. The results are most winning—I recommend it to any *Nutcracker* production, a charming Glue which deserves the widest circulation. I saw four casts in the principal roles—enough to convince me that in five years these Angelenos are adding a new colour to the total spectrum of continental American dance. It would be fun to see it in general repertory.

Martinique is not merely French. It is France. It is, turning John Donne's proposition on its head, an island which is "a piece of the continent". A full department whose destiny is decided in Paris, not Fort de France, its two capital since 1902. Contemplate its Caribbean beaches, sip some rum concoction under a thatched shelter on the shore, travel through its banana plantations, and the incongruous thought intrudes that this island is also an outpost of the European Community. (The farthest outpost, incidentally. That distinction goes to Reunion in the Indian Ocean.)

Because it is an integral part of France, there are no duty free drinks or purchases on the nine hour flights from Paris and if you come to it, as I did, with your anticipations based on visits to other Caribbean islands—lands upon which the British have left their mark—Martinique can be something of a shock. How easy it is to assume all Caribbean islanders speak English of a sort. How understandable to expect cricket pitches and driving on the left. And what a lot to land up on such an island and discover the game being played to a different set of rules.

The largest of the Windward Isles, Martinique is, like others, volcanic. Man has had to help nature create the kind of beaches that tourists prefer. There are natural beaches of course, along the west coast, and the road which runs from Fort de France north to St Pierre will take you to them. But their sands are dark and in any case a crop of modern hotels has sprung up on the shore near Anse Mitou and Anse à l'Ane, south across the bay from Fort de France, where beaches have been created—tidier and whiter than the natural ones, and somehow more typically French.

The hotel in which I stayed was part of this complex, the four star Bakoua Beach. Comfortable rather than luxurious and next door to the Hotel Meridien. Both provide plenty of beach amusements and amenities, with hotel guests having free use of the sailboats and windsurfers. I found myself inevitably comparing the hotels with those I have used on other islands, trying to find out in what way they differed. I concluded that although I have stayed in "smoother" establishments in Barbados, St Lucia, Antigua or Tobago, the service in Martinique was the best I had ever encountered and the food also reflected that French influence.

I have to take great care when writing of "French" food, the more so when writing of it in the context of the Caribbean. My conclusion—at least, the only one I can reach—is that to pass on—is that the food was what you would expect of any decent hotel along the coast of "European" France, with little concession to Caribbean or Creole traditions. Far away from the hotels and you are more likely to encounter a Creole influence, but hotels and restaurants alike reflect the comparative lack of American influence.

So many other islands, especially those farther north along

the Windward chain, have been and to some extent still are dominated by American visitors, reflecting this in their steaks and salads and barbecue meals. Martinique—in a typical reflection of the French character—makes no such concessions, and in any case few Americans go there, apart from those whose cruise ships call in at Fort de France. (Writing of food, and recalling the dining room at the Bakoua Beach, I remember that conversation was overwhelmingly French—the various accents of visitors from La Metropole and the efforts of French Canadians, labouring under the delusion that it was all the same language.)

I mentioned that the island is volcanic. In April and May of 1902 Mt Pelée, the volcano which forms the northern part of the island, erupted, and on May 8 its eruption overwhelmed the town of St Pierre, then the capital, killing some 40,000 people. Molten lava and ashes devastated the town and a number of ships in the harbour were also destroyed. Today a museum provides the visitor with graphic evidence of the tragedy and one may also see the ruins as well as the new houses which have been built on the site. One of the most interesting aspects of the terrible event—at least, I find it so—is that the only survivor escaped death because he was protected by the thick walls of the condemned cell in the local jail. Joseph Sympas was his name and, according to some versions of the story, he was to have been guillotined the next day. In any event he was pardoned and went to the United States where he joined Barnum and Bailey's Circus. He died in 1950.

I came to St Pierre, having driven north from Fort de France along the coast road I mentioned earlier. As with just about every other island, all roads seem to lead to the capital, and the local tourist office uses Fort de France as the starting point for a number of suggested circuits (*touristiques*). The first is that which takes you to the village of Case-Pilote and then back to the coast and the little village of Carbet. After this comes St Pierre and the route continues inland to le Morne Rouge and then south to Fort de France. In all, half a dozen such routes cover the entire island.

One of them will take you to La Pagerie, a little way inland from the south shore of Fort de France bay—and close to the Bakoua Beach and Meridien hotels. Incidentally, it was here that Marie Joseph Rose Tasche was born and brought up. As Napoleon's Empress Josephine she is without doubt the island's most famous inhabitant, and visitors dutifully trek to the location of the old house. Unfortunately, the long mill was destroyed by a hurricane and the family sugar mill is a ruin. However the old kitchens have been turned into a museum and a visit there is certainly worthwhile. Not that the museum is particularly

Travel

Going French in the Caribbean



St Pierre and the volcano Mont Pelée which erupted in 1902

good, but there is a distinct shortage of "attractions" on Martinique, and a trip to la Pagerie helps while away a morning or an afternoon, providing an alternative to the beach.

Fort de France is not particularly attractive, but has to be visited for its shops, I suppose. If you do stay south of the bay, a ferry service runs each hour in each direction, taking some 20 minutes. Far better to use this transport than take your hire car into the town's narrow and crowded streets.

At the beginning of this article, I established the essential "Frenchness" of Martinique, and this is certainly its attraction. It was not always French, of course. Like so many other islands in that part of the world it was fought over and was in fact captured by the British in 1794. We finally, and generously, gave it back to the French after beating them at Waterloo. (A little way off the south coast is Diamond Rock, the location of a most remarkable adventure by the Royal Navy in 1804.)

However, the island's "Frenchness" is its attraction, especially for anyone who has visited other Caribbean destinations and may have felt that all were pretty much alike.

According to the French Tourist Office at 178 Piccadilly, London—seven tour companies offer inclusive holidays to Martinique. Until next March, two weeks can be had for £524 on bed and breakfast terms with Air France Holidays (a supplementary payment of £111 purchasing half board

accommodation), while two weeks with Twickenham Travel starts at £741, on half board terms. No doubt a travel agent will supply you with the brochures of these and other companies.

However, it strikes me that a course worth investigating would be to purchase the lowest priced return air ticket to a neighbouring "British" island—Barbados, say, or St Lucia, and then arrange separately your air transport on to Martinique and your accommodation. Or even combine a week on either of those islands with a week on Martinique. I have not closely investigated the economics of the semi "do it yourself" arrangement, but think a lower final cost might be achieved. The Bakoua Beach and the Meridien hotels are represented by booking agencies in London, as are other hotels on the island. Again, a travel agent will have the details.

I can think of no particular guide book to recommend, although some guides are available on the island itself. However, if you want to capture something of the atmosphere of past events there, you should read *Ramages de Diamant* by Dudley Pope, which Fontana published as a paperback in 1977. The novel is based on the 1804 exploit of Commodore Samuel Hood who took possession of Diamond Rock, off the island's south coast, in order to blockade the French fleet. "One of the legends of the Royal Navy in the Caribbean" is how Dudley Pope rightly describes the exploit.

John Carter

Gardening

Long, trouble-free lives

ceous plants to call for help by flagging in dry spells.

The dwarf or alpine species and varieties seem to need differing conditions. One of my favourites is *Kniphofia* with its varieties "Apple Blossom", pale pink, "Bonita", lavender blue and "Scarlet Flame".

In my clay garden at Graywood we had great patches of it 2ft to 3ft across. On the light, Burmore soil it just would not spread and in our garden now it is very happy.

Another plant that my father grew with no trouble and which flourishes with us is the scarlet *Zauschneria californica*. It is sometimes said to be half hard and it certainly thrives in a well drained sheltered spot and perhaps best of all at the base of a south facing wall. It grows about 18in high and produces sprays of bright red flowers from June to August. The old stems are cut down in March.

One of the most easy going and trouble free genera is *Hosta* formerly known as *Funkia*. True, slugs may be a bit of a nuisance chewing the young shoots in spring, but a warning or even a slug killer usually takes care of them.

Hostas, or plantain lilies do best in a semi-shady spot in soil that, while never lying waterlogged, does not dry out in summer. If there is danger of it becoming too dry for their comfort one must be prepared to water regularly and adequately. *Hostas* are mainly grown for their foliage, but many have quite attractive flowers usually lilac, mauve or even white. My favourites are *H. fortunei*, "Aureo-marginata" with a golden margin to the green leaf; *H. sieboldiana* with large mid green leaves; and *H. ventricosa* "Variegata" which has dark green and yellow leaves—very effective. *H. crispula* is another charming species with neat white edges to the green leaves and *H. undulata* has large wavy leaves with irregular white and green markings. All the variegated *hostas* keep their colouring best in light shade. This is curious unlike some plants such as the golden form of *Lonicera nitida* "Baggesens Gold" and other plants with gold, silver or variegated foliage which tend to revert to green unless they receive plentiful sunlight. However, nature

is constantly offering us such delightful inconsistencies.

Most, but not all red hot poker—species and varieties of *Kniphofia* come into our category of long lived generally trouble free plants. They do not like ground that lies wet in winter, otherwise they are not fussy about soil. I like to tie the leaves of mine together wigwag fashion in December to protect the crowns from winter wet and severe frosts.

Where there is plenty of space varieties like "Samuel's Sensation", red, will reach 3ft and *K. aurea*, orange red and yellow, will grow to 3ft or more.

"Bees Lemon" is a daintier variety about 3ft and "Bees Sunset", orange-flame, is also an elegant variety slightly dwarfed. The cream white "Maid of Orleans" I have planted twice and lost it in severe winters. Maybe a thick mulch of half decayed leaves or peat would have saved it and in colder districts a mulch in autumn might be a good idea with the modern hybrid *kniphofias*.

There are to be two large international flower shows this year—the Florales at Ghent, in

Belgium from April 20 to 27, and the Canadian Montreal International Florales from May 17 to September 1. The Ghent show is held in a vast building. At Montreal there will be a large indoor show in the Olympic Park Velodrome from May 17 to 29 while among the vast outdoor features will be a half acre "bush" consisting of cubic metre blocks of peat lifted last spring while still frozen solid and relaid, reassembled in proper sequence following a numbering pattern.

The Ghent show will contain a large number of bog plants including insect eating plants. The Gardeners' Sunday organization that arranges for many gardens to be open in aid of the two gardeners' charities report another successful year in 1979 despite the poor weather in the spring and early summer. A total of £16,245 has been distributed to the charities. This is only £740 less than the record total of £16,985 in 1978 which was greatly helped by the £1,000 from the special opening of the gardens at Frognor.

Roy Hay

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Wednesday 23 Jan 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Thursday 24 Jan 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Friday 25 Jan 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Saturday 26 Jan 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Sunday 27 Jan 3.15 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Monday 28 Jan 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Tuesday 29 Jan 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Wednesday 30 Jan 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Thursday 31 Jan 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Friday 1 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Saturday 2 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Sunday 3 Feb 3.15 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Monday 4 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Tuesday 5 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Wednesday 6 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Thursday 7 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Friday 8 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Saturday 9 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Sunday 10 Feb 3.15 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Monday 11 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Tuesday 12 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Wednesday 13 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Thursday 14 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Friday 15 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Saturday 16 Feb 8.00 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Sunday 17 Feb 3.15 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Collecting

The ultimate guide

"My wife and I collect walnut and a man told me as an opening gambit after we had been introduced at a New Year's Eve party. As the evening progressed he wanted to know if I felt I was as good as a furniture collector," he confided, "now that Phillips's auctioneer knows me by name." Then his wife joined in. "We've got some marvelous chests," she screeched above the hubbub. "Do you know the Price Guide to Antique Furniture?" I nodded. "Well, we've got the chest on stand illustrated at the top left of the cover."

I looked it up when I got home and it was clear that they had a piece worth boasting of. It was a walnut veneered chest on a cabriole leg stand dating from around 1720, with the little extra sophistications that make all the difference to a piece of furniture: the veneers on the drawer fronts carefully matched in texture, and the legs having an attractive hickie scroll carving at the shoulder. The book suggested a value of £2,750 to £3,750.

Every home must be furnished, and fine antique furnishings provide a constant enhancement to life in this age of planned obsolescence. However, what the best way is for an amateur to collect furniture without being cheated and forced to pay through the nose is a difficult question. My friends of New Year's eve have found a highly intelligent answer to it: to buy at Phillips's auctions, having done their homework on what kind of furniture they are after and what it is likely to cost by studying the Price Guide to Antique Furniture.

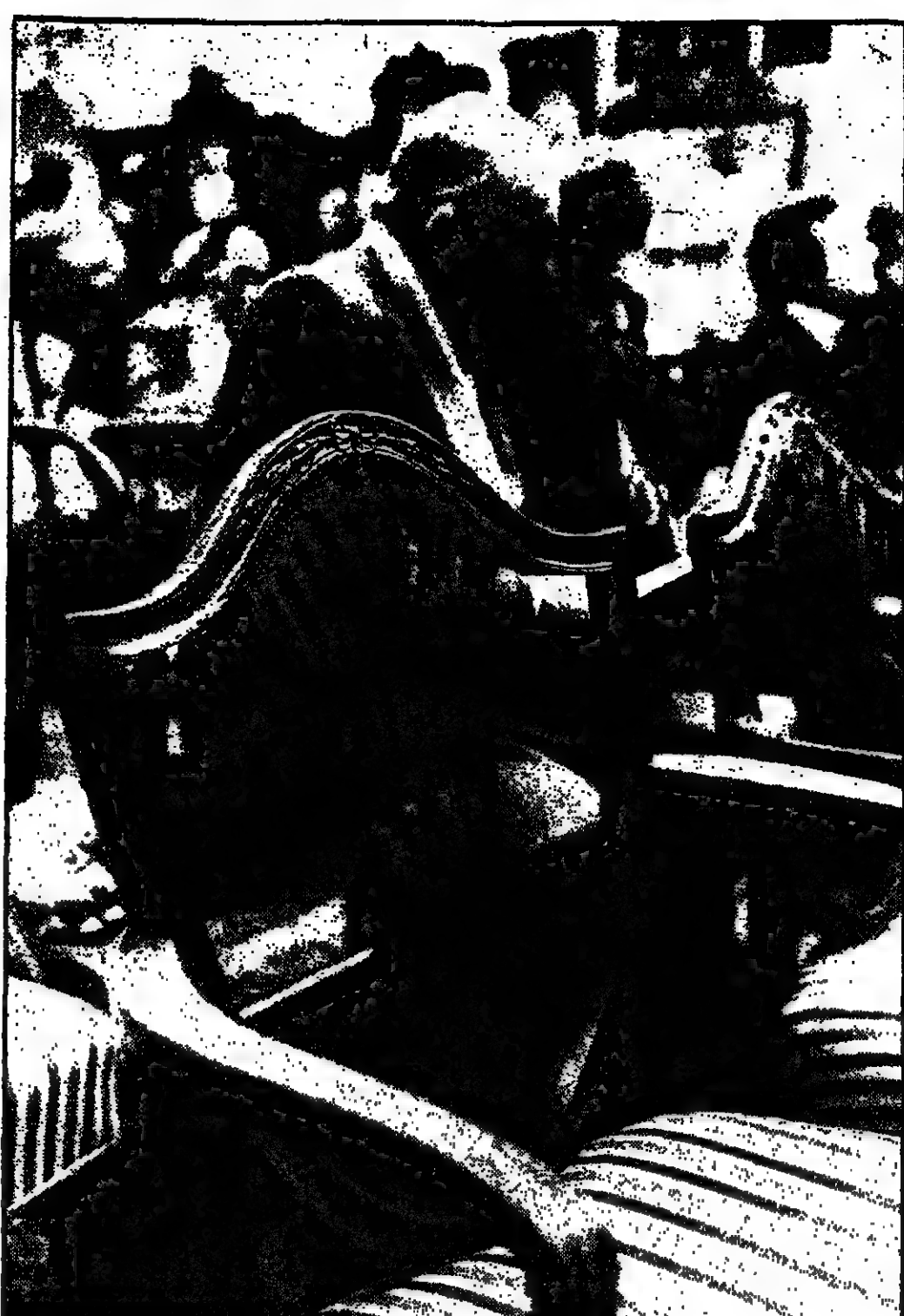
Phillips are Britain's third largest auctioneers of art and antiques, after Sotheby's and Christie's. But in almost every way they sell more furniture than either of the other two. They hold furniture auctions every Monday and Tuesday morning at their main rooms in Blenheim Street, off Bond Street. It is the Tuesday auctions which contain most of the good quality antique furniture of interest to collectors: the Monday sale generally has items of lesser quality and more reproduction pieces. But it is worth viewing both while you are about it. A first time buyer may profit from the tips about how the auctions work. There are printed catalogues and price estimates for all sales, so that you can check instantly what kind of price Phillips are expecting for any item that takes your fancy. If the catalogue gives a value, "George III" for instance, or a date, "early nineteenth century", this means the auction experts believe it to be a genuine period piece; if it is described as "antique", it generally means that part of the piece is old but it has been heavily altered or restored; if there is no indication of date or the catalogue says, for instance, "Chippendale style", they believe the item to be of recent manufacture.

The small print at the beginning of the catalogue lists the Phillips accept no responsibility for authenticity or errors of description. In fact, however, they will take things back where they have made a genuine mistake; if there is any doubt as to whether they were right or wrong, a third party will be asked to arbitrate, generally an expert dealer suggested by the British Antique Dealers' Association.

All the same, it is wise to remember that very little old furniture has survived unaltered—and that the greatest experts often disagree and make mistakes. There are two other furniture buyers' difficulties which Phillips can help to solve. One is transportation; they can advise on a local carrier which regularly collects goods from them and can deliver your purchases to your home. The other is restoration. Much furniture sold at auction is battered and not in immediately usable condition. Phillips can put you in touch with specialist restorers who will collect the piece from them and deliver it to your home fully restored. If you want advice before a sale on how costly the restoration of a particular piece might prove, Phillips staff will provide advice.

Many private people who venture rarely into a sale room are shy of asking questions or advice. Chris Hawkins, an assistant managing director, assures me that they wish people would not be frightened. They like answering questions and are always ready to help. The tremendous increase in private buying at Phillips that has taken place in recent years seems to indicate that this message is getting across. Dealers used to be the auction purchasers; now private purchasers account for some 30 per cent of turnover.

To assist private people who are busy during the week Phillips open on Saturday morning; both Monday and Tuesday's sales can be peacefully viewed. If you can't get to the sale, you can ask the auctioneers to bid up to a specified figure for you. It is certainly advisable to view several sales and, if possible, attend one or two, before you start buying—it gives you a feel for the range of furniture available and the unpredictability of bid prices.



Intense concentration at the furniture sale at Phillips.

Photograph by Brian Harris

This is also where the *Price Guide to Antique Furniture* comes in. It is an admirable book written by John Andrews and published by the Antique Collectors' Club, Church Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk, at £12.50. The second edition of 1978 contains over 1,000 photographs of the kind of antique furniture generally available; each picture is accompanied by a brief comment on the signs of quality and/or failing to look for, and a price range is suggested. The first price revision list, bringing these valuations right up to date, is to be published this month.

Next Tuesday's furniture sale at Phillips comprises 140 lots and plenty of useful and handsome furniture. Every bedroom, for instance, needs a chest of drawers. You can choose next week between the sophisticated elegance of a George III mahogany chest with a serpentine curve to the front estimated at £800 to £1,000, a simpler mahogany tailboy chest of similar date estimated at £400, or the more down to earth and primitive look of a Jacobean oak chest with geometrically moulded panel drawers estimated at £400.

Sets of matching chairs are so hard to come by that even reproduction sets can sell for four figure prices. A set of eight mahogany ladder-back dining chairs—in the Georgian taste—are expected to fetch £1,000-£1,500. Dining rooms generally require more than four chairs, so a set of four genuine Regency mahogany chairs are expected to make only £300-£350, while a set of eight reproduction "Regency style" above chairs are estimated at £600. Walnut is something different again, rare and greatly beloved; a Queen Anne burr walnut single chair with elegantly carved cabriole legs is expected to reach £300 on its own.

The cheapest period items are such things as washstands and vanity cupboards (politely "night tables" or "bedside tables") which modern plumbing has made virtually obsolete. A George III mahogany enclosed washstand, for instance, is expected to fetch only about £100-£150, while the estimate is only £100 on a George III mahogany "bedside table".

While oak was traditionally the cheap wood, used by unpretentious country craftsmen, the solid simplicity of oak furniture has been much in vogue in recent years. An eighteenth-century oak dresser, of the standard kind with shelves above and drawers below, is expected to be one of the most expensive pieces in the sale, estimated at £1,500-£2,000. A seventeenth-century oak joint stool, a small and not very practical item, is estimated at £200-£250. (Finely carved examples can sell well into four figures, according to the *Price Guide*.)

Gerardine Norman

Architecture report

Interior space as fine as any in modern London

By Charles McKean

Architectural Correspondent

Few people have the opportunity to see inside a new building unless it is a public building or they, a friend or a relative work in it. For that reason the quality that a modern building can offer is still unknown to much of the population. After all, quality is not an attribute frequently to be found in modern developments such as shopping centres or central area redevelopments to which the public is admitted freely.

Worse than that, many quite passable modern buildings have very little to offer because they are no more than passable; the client has wished to achieve something more than space, and has adopted the minimum standards in materials and space with which most architects are familiar.

A client who is prepared to have a special building is rare. Yet architects relish the chance to exercise what little remains of their art once it has been shaped and modelled and crisscrossed by all manner of regulations and committees.

The ability to make something special does not always require more money; sometimes what is required is ingenuity, lateral thinking or imagination. It is the way the money is used within a given budget that can often give a building quality.

The Truman Brewery, crammed into Brick Lane, in Spitalfields, London, provides a very good example. The brewery required new administrative offices, amenities, workshops and stores as part of a larger redevelopment already begun. The development was in a conservation area, and included two historic buildings: the directors' building, on the south end of a courtyard, and the brewer's building, at the north end. What singles out this development is that Truman chose one of Britain's finest architectural practices, Arup Associates, to undertake the work.

The result is interesting at two levels, that of planning and that of design. The existing jumble of buildings, with a courtyard little more than a grandiose loading bay, has been transformed into a formal London cobbled courtyard, with newly commissioned wrought iron railings along the pavement and finely rehabilitated historic buildings at either end.

An almost sheer glass curtain wall which runs from the brewer's house to the directors' house and can be observed by sparrows as extending some way above both. Thus Truman has a new formal entrance.

However, the lower two storeys were needed for double-height storage and workshops, hardly ideal conditions for a formal reception area. Those have been screened behind a brick wall, lying behind the glass wall and separate from it. The space between the brick wall and the glass wall becomes therefore a front-of-house veneer of reception area, walkway, lifts and access to the second floor, where lies the bar, leisure areas and access to the three office floors above.

The glory of the Truman development lies in the space house and can be observed by sparrows as extending some way above both. Thus Truman has a new formal entrance.

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The glory of the Truman development lies in the space



The impressive and spacious formal entrance, created by a glass "wall", at the Truman Brewery, in Spitalfields.

thus created between the brick back wall and the glass front which, in its own way, provides as fine an interior space as can be found in modern London buildings. The means by which that hall has been achieved are simple.

Arup Associates took the logic of the three storeys of glass-fronted offices on the upper levels and continued the facade down to ground level, bringing it out from the main structure for the bottom three storeys, so creating a three-storey entrance hall.

Purists have objected that in order to achieve it, the brewer's house at the north end now has a projecting glass wall hugging its curved, bow-fronted midriff—not the way to treat the exterior of an important historic building.

The architects retort that the glass is insubstantial, really only a weather protector. The true back to the courtyard, they say, is the great brick wall behind, which is suitably arched, beautifully detailed and religiously keyed into the older building.

It is a "now you see it, now you don't" argument. Arup Associates often see through their buildings to some inner logic, whereas the public looks at them only from the outside. In this case both sides are right.

Hence the importance of the entrance hall. In that grand space all is revealed. At the back the curves of the brewer's house can be seen peering out beneath the patterned glazing. The brick arches of the main wall are grand enough to form the main entrance and reception area behind the glass skin.

Above, there are two floors of balconies which overhang with plants. The space is as impressive for its length as its height, and the fashionable interior greenery is rising to the occasion.

The balconies have a further function; they represent the main circulation routes on two of the floors. The fact of the corridors opening out into such a large, bright space completely transforms what might otherwise be humdrum, if not a little claustrophobic in places.

It is rare to have a space of such dimensions in a new building. Yet the method of achieving it shows a combination of lateral thinking and imagination. Huge sums of money spent on the wrong architects would not necessarily have got as suitable results.



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SPECIAL REPORTS

The first vines were planted in Argentina in the sixteenth century by Jesuits establishing missions in the newly conquered country. The first export enterprise of the railroad linking the Atlantic to the Pacific was undertaken a century ago, numbers of Italian and Spanish workers arrived and many settled to establish their own vineyards. Today Argentina is the fourth and in some years the third largest producer of wine in the world.

Average yields of the huge bunches of grapes—which can weigh as much as 10 kilos each—result in an overall total of 70.5 hectolitres per hectare, whereas the equivalent figure for France is only 47.5. The people drink about 90 litres of wine per year.

Mendoza province, where about 72 per cent of Argentina's wine is made, has 32,625 individual vineyards. A variety of grapes are cultivated, including the Criolla and Cereza, described as "neither red nor white" and long-established in the country. Malbec, Tempranillo, Lambrusco, Barbera, Merlot, other black grapes, Chenin Blanc, Semillon and Pedro Ximenez are some of the whites but for the finer wines Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Riesling are being planted extensively.

San Juan, Rio Negro and Neuquen, La Rioja, and Salta are other wine-producing regions. Because of the extremes of climate in certain areas some of the vineyards are irrigated, as rainfall tends to be slight and the water flowing from the high Andes, where snow lasts for whole year, is nowadays insufficient to be

diverted to the vineyards. Technically, the wine installations appear to be of as high a standard as anywhere in the world. The National Institute of Viticulture was set up in 1959 and has 42 branches, controlling the vineyards, production and movement of all wines.

Exporting is a fairly new venture, but Matthew Clark, who has been mainly responsible for introducing Argentine wines to the United Kingdom, reports that, whereas in 1970 only about 13,000 gallons came into Britain, the January to November 1978 total was 500,000 gallons; a huge surge in 1979 and the prospect of a big one in 1980 as well would appear to have been a settling influence on a trade that boomed so in 1978 that subsequent domestic consumption fell, prices soared and the whole industry was in considerable danger.

Today, as far as the United Kingdom customer is concerned, Argentine wines are definitely cheap—very much so in relation to their quality. They have the recommendation of being excellent, with many British food, plus the considerable interest of coming mostly from ungrafted vines, as the aphid, *phylloxera vastatrix*, has never ruined the vineyards.

In general, all the wines tend to be 12°, so not for too casual quaffing. The dry whites are assertive and aromatic, the reds moderate to full in body, some with some tannin, improving enormously if they get at least an hour (ideally more) in a decanter or carafe before being served. The Franchette Rose, predominantly made from the

Criolla, is fresh and agreeable (£1.50 from Vincones, Northumberland Place, Teignmouth), the 1977 rose of Orfila a darker, almost red wine, is clean and a good drink (£1.90 from H. J. Bologna, 70 High Street, Hampton Wick, Kingston, Surrey). The Franchette dry wine (£1.50 from Tesco) is interesting because it is wholly made from the Pedro Ximenez—a grape we now think of in Europe in connexion with the sweeter sherries; but this is a dry, firm wine with a restrained bouquet, the flavour somewhat less pronounced.

Peñaflo's 1975 Andean Pinot Blanc is a medium gold colour, somewhat fat in character—good with fatty fish and egg sauces. (£1.90 from City Vintagers, 47 Midlands Road, NW1, their branches in Bournemouth and Torquay, the Radford Brewery, Leamington Spa; Walter Hicks, the St Austell Brewery, St Austell, Cornwall.) Peñaflo also make the 1975 Andean Riesling (which I am assured is the Rheingiesling), light, crisp and pleasantly mouth-filling (£1.95 from City Vintagers and Walter Hicks). Puriotti's 1977 Riesling is quite different, somewhat tougher, with an unusual, assertive smell (£1.90 from H. J. Bologna).

Of the reds, mention has already been made of the Franchette Red (£1.50 from Cullens and from Tesco), and Primado (£1.50 from Vincones), both of which I would certainly prefer to drink rather than dull or ill-made versions of European "known names".

The Argentine wines have definite character, good finish and balance—very few cheap

wines all have a beginning, middle and end but these are the exception; the Franchette range is bottled here, all the others in Argentina, which makes their price even more surprising and welcome. The 1969 Eminencia of Garagardini (£2 from Threshers branches) is very dark—it is probably made with at least a high proportion of Malbec grapes—with a fine bouquet combining a fresh, leafy smell with a meaty aroma that leads on to a full, warm flavour and firm finish, admirable with roasts and grills.

A comparison of Cabernets from the Argentine would be fascinating at a "wine dinner". Orfila's 1974 Cabernet Sauvignon is shaded in tone, firm in style and an easy drink; Puriotti's 1975 is in some ways rather like a good Spanish red, full of flavour after the initial warmth of the slightly herby bouquet. (These are £2.10 and £2.20 respectively, both from H. J. Bologna.)

Peñaflo's Andean Cabernet 1973, however, is unusual for style as well as quality; the firm, one of the largest producers and distributors in the world, has here made a wine that, if tasted blind, many might think came from some individual estate (there are some, but as yet no exports appear to be made). If you were served this from a decanter, you might guess it as something much better-known at twice or three times the price (£2.20 from City Vintagers and their branches, and from Walter Hicks).

Pamela Vandyke Price

Fred Emery

The fading Thatcher image on TV

One of the sharpest differences between American and British politicians is the way they use television. Americans usually come up on the screen with a message they are determined to deliver whatever questions are put by the interviewer. That way something the President says can usually be the focus for public enlightenment, concern, assurance or just plain debate.

Admittedly, over there it can become too much of a good thing. Judging by this past week President Carter has been coming close to saturation, but at least his message is coming across. So too, by all accounts, did Mrs Thatcher's in America when she was there before Christmas. Reportedly she caught the mood of rage over Iran.

But what a contrast to what is going on over here. Last weekend's television message from Mrs Thatcher has disappeared without trace. It is almost exactly a year since she made one of the most effective television political broadcasts seen for years.

She then caught the mood of discontent with those public service strikes, and conveyed a sense of leadership.

Last Sunday came her first full length interview on British television since she entered Number 10. And can anyone say now what is remembered of it? Could it be her dubious unformative payoff line that no one would remember the Good Samaritan if he'd only had good intentions, he had money as well? Or the rather airy belief that "reason will prevail" in the steel strike that was scented by those involved as soon as they heard it?

Or will it be remembered for all that dogged detail over possible changes in union immunities and de-indexation of social benefits? (Those who irritatedly remember it most for the blurred figure hovering behind her head can be authoritatively assured it was Disraeli. Even Mrs Thatcher's doughty champion at the Daily Mail was dismayed.)

Now the fault for this lies

The Prime Minister's television message last weekend has disappeared without trace. Can anyone say now what is remembered of it?

mostly with Mrs Thatcher, but the interviewer also has his role. All praise—as those feeling sour grapes always say—to London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* programme for being selected to bring us Mrs Thatcher's coming out.

I must declare my interest, of course. It is no secret to Downing Street nor to the Prime Minister herself that *The Times*, doubtless other newspapers, and certainly other television programmes, both BBC and ITV, are in the queue

as well as the extraordinary length of his questions which, for a change, Mrs Thatcher had to interrupt.

I doubt, however, that the go so far as suggested by Mr Anthony Howard, editor of *The Listener*, who in this week's edition recalled that Mr Walden thought a former Labour MP, was last year quoted in a slim Thatcher hagiography saying "there's no one in politics I'd sooner trust than Margaret Thatcher... I think she would be one of the best Prime Ministers this country has ever seen".

No, the Thatcher side calculation is far more practical. Although the number viewing at midday Sunday goes unrecorded, the aim is to corner newspaper coverage. It happens early, Sunday is a slow day for news. The trick usually works effortlessly, and certainly far less strain is put on newspapers than in the coverage of a late evening live television appearance. By column inches the trick can be said to have

worked this week, too.

But such, perhaps, was the concern with the medium that the message got lost on the way. Reflecting on the week's events I think I have found it going back through the transcript. It was not the stuff about limiting trade union immunities, and possible cuts in public spending, taxes and even social benefits that we recycled as "news".

It was, rather, to encourage people hurt by strikes to "object", "complain", "to have something to say about that", to realize as union members "that the way in which trade unions sometimes are operating now is giving you more power to inflict damage on others than it is to protect yourselves and your own families against damage caused by others".

And regarding steel, to drive home the notion that we are all subsidizing steel workers' high pay. "In the last five years every family in this country has in fact put the equivalent of £220 into British steel. Next year... something like



Mrs Thatcher and Mr Brian Walden: fine points

another £30 per family... the Prime Minister declared. The calculation was that the Government had public opinion on its side, and perhaps could divide union members and so prevail. But is this how things

are turning out? And why was the message so muffled and left all week without ministerial follow-up or orchestration so that it now seems like an uncertain trumpet? Stay tuned.

West Germany holds out its hand to the terrorists

Tonn Only two years ago it would have been inconceivable. Yet there they were, the West German interior minister and the former Baader-Meinhof terrorist, talking for almost seven hours and agreeing "we must come out of the trenches".

The remarkable discussion between Herr Gerhart Baum, the minister, and Herr Horst Mahler, condensed and published nationwide by *Der Spiegel* magazine, not only demonstrated a striking change of atmosphere in West Germany.

It was also part of a subtle and carefully-orchestrated strategy by the government to induce terrorists to surrender and return to society.

It is now more than two years since the last terrorist attack, the kidnapping and murder of Herr Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the industrialists' president. Although they know that the terrorists could strike again at any moment, government experts believe that the moment has come when, with judicious efforts by the state, some at least could be won back.

First there are signs that some terrorists, if not the members of the hard core, are disillusioned, repentant, or simply fed up with life in hiding. Second, the more relaxed attitude by the public makes it easier for the government to smooth their way back.

There have been some striking changes of heart among terrorists. Herr Horst Mahler, a lawyer and one-time chief ideologue in the Baader-Meinhof group, decided during long years in prison that it had all been very wrong and wants to convince the others of this, too.

Herr Hans-Joachim Klein,

who took part in the 1975 attempted kidnapping of the Opec ministers in Vienna, has written a book from his hiding place appealing to his comrades to give up.

Frau Astrid Prohl, another Baader-Meinhof member, had started a new life in Britain when she was discovered by chance. Three other lesser figures have voluntarily returned to West Germany from abroad to face trial, and Herr Baum says he has received "indications" that more want to come clean.

Interior Ministry experts reason that there must be considerable frustration among the terrorists. Few of their exploits, however horrifying, have actually achieved their aim. Numerous arrests have thinned their ranks, and increased security measures have made life more difficult. The state that they hoped to destroy is as strong as ever and the workers whom they championed reject them completely.

Herr Mahler has said that criticism of the terrorists' methods among the extreme left-wing groups which are closest to them is "much greater than the public realizes". These circles, which once provided vital support, appear now less willing to help.

Nevertheless, other experts are less optimistic. They believe the hard core, at least—some 40 are still wanted for arrest—as are determined and ruthless as ever. There is also evidence they have been preparing further attacks.

Herr Baum has ordered a thorough study of the underlying causes of terrorism. A dozen eminent professors are examining in minute detail terrorists' lives, the psychological



Photograph by Daringer

"We must come out of the trenches": Herr Gerhart Baum talking to Herr Horst Mahler, former Baader-Meinhof terrorist.

mechanism of extremist groups, social and ideological factors. This work will take a long time, but first results have helped Herr Baum and his staff to work out a plan of action.

Their main purpose is to try to communicate with the terrorists, if only through the news media, to break down their driving force behind the state—the driving force behind their actions—to ensure that repentant terrorists were treated with respect and accepted back by society.

The result has been an amazing operation in ministerial stage-management.

It was an coincidence, for instance, that Frau Prohl was introduced to the German public in a magazine interview as a

serious and decent woman who sincerely hoped for a new life, or that Herr Baum, in another interview, said the government could withdraw its extradition request if Frau Prohl would return voluntarily to Germany.

It was also no accident that she wrote "spontaneously" to the Hesse justice minister expressing anxiety about the conditions in which she would be held or that Herr Baum assured the same minister in writing that Frau Prohl had no known contacts with terrorists now. The result was that Frau Prohl, unlike unrepentant terrorists, was soon released from custody.

Nor was it by chance that Frau Kristina Berster who returned voluntarily from the

United States, was taken into the home of a constitutional court judge while awaiting her trial. Or that Herr Mahler works in a Berlin architects office by day and is in prison only at night.

The climax of the campaign so far was however, the historic discussion between Herr Mahler and Herr Baum in which they agreed that society is far from perfect but can be changed by legal means from inside.

Herr Baum has been under considerable pressure to declare an amnesty for terrorists but decided that one criminal group should not be given different treatment from others. Nor can he interfere with the courts—any terrorist who re-

turns will have to face trial.

He and Herr Mahler hoped that their discussion to reach at least young people who may be tempted to join the terrorists, or non-active former members who may be able to influence the hard core.

But the hard core itself is a different matter. Whether in jail or in hiding they live in their own groups voluntarily sealed off from the rest of the world and other people's ideas. Any member who wanted out would never dare admit it to the others. All terrorists who join, one disillusioned member has revealed, are told the only way out is "via the cemetery".

Patricia Clough

Hungary's Catch-22 game of blackmail

Eleventh-century Anglo-Saxon princes could hardly be expected to arouse strong political passions in Soviet-block countries. Yet a research trip to follow up my discovery of the missing axle years in Eastern Europe of Edmund and Eadward aetheling, upon whom England's hopes of avoiding the Norman take-over centred in 1066, has been blocked by the Hungarian authorities.

In order to complete a book (*The Anglo-Saxon Connection*), commissioned by Cassells about the aethelings' exile, I needed to follow up the fresh evidence of their sojourn in Kiev and south Hungary. Academician Mikhail Pavlovich Alexeyev, the doyen of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, expressed great interest in the details of the Kievian stay of the aethelings and, because of its significance for Russian historiography, offered full personal help.

But a Hungarian archaeologist in charge of excavations in southern Hungary of the ruins

of a castle reputedly linked with the aethelings' stay there, declined to cooperate. In order to help me inspect the excavations and to study an ancient land deed allegedly referring to "the land of the English princes" in south Hungary, the British Council included me in its 1979 cultural exchange programme with Hungary.

Since the exchange programme is a direct offshoot of the Helsinki accords, specifically stipulated under its section III that "each side will encourage the further development of interest in the other country and to this end will facilitate the development of contacts", there seemed no reason to doubt that the Hungarians would cooperate on a project of such interest to both Britain and Hungary.

In the end, however, old Cold War attitudes seemed to prevail and the Hungarian authorities forced the cancella-

tion of my officially sponsored trip on the eve of my departure for Budapest.

Although the Hungarians duly issued me with an entry visa, they informed the British Council just as I was about to fly out that the Institute of Cultural Relations in Budapest, the body charged with the implementation of the Hungarian side of the cultural exchanges, was unable to arrange my professional contract. No explanation has been offered.

Since earlier attempts to contact, on an individual basis, medievalists and archaeologists working on eleventh-century issues, had been discouraged, the refusal of cooperation by the official body created a classic Catch-22 situation.

As an investigation of the stay of the Anglo-Saxon princes could hardly have endangered the stability of the Kadar regime, the question that must

be asked is why this crude, provocative action? They could certainly not question my credentials as an author because my last historical book, *The Tartar Khan's Englishman*, was reviewed across four columns in Budapest's leading newspaper earlier this year.

One serious objection would have been that I speak Hungarian and, consequently, I would not have required the services of an official interpreter to listen in and report on my professional contacts.

Privately it has been hinted that the veto was actually linked with my work for *The Times*. Mr William Reed-Mogg, the Editor of *The Times*, subsequently wrote to Mr János Lőrincz-Nagy, the Hungarian Ambassador to Britain, "to assure him that the visit would be entirely in my capacity as an author, not as a staff journalist of *The Times*. He went on to

ask the ambassador to help remove the difficulties for the sake of good cultural links between the two countries. The letter has been left unanswered.

Mr Peter Baker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, has deplored the arbitrariness of the Hungarian authorities. In a letter he said: "Our Embassy in Budapest have raised Mr Rooney's case with them on a number of occasions and have pointed out the adverse effect such actions are bound to have on our relations generally, and the cultural exchange programme in particular. We are also taking up with the Hungarian Embassy here their failure even to reply to the letter from the Editor of *The Times*".

With the deadline for the completion of the book now upon me, all this offered little practical help. It is a problem that other British authors may face if a part of their research

depends on the good will of Soviet-block cultural apparatus.

This arbitrariness raises some issues of principle, as the high-headedness of the Hungarian government goes against the spirit of Helsinki. The decision whether, and in what form, Britain is to make its displeasure felt will, quite rightly, be influenced by concern for the continuation of East-West contacts. Yet it is precisely this concern that some East European states try to exploit to make détente an unbalanced, one-sided affair. Contacts, it seems, must be arranged on their terms—or not at all.

Unless this blackmailing mentality is challenged, the value of the cultural exchange programmes will be greatly diminished. To make East-West contacts a real two-way affair, a principled stand must be taken by all those who care for détente and the fulfilment of the Helsinki accords.

Gabriel Ronay

KARACHI SPORTS DIARY

A whole new ball game

The seven nations tournament for the Champions Trophy, concluded yesterday in Karachi, marked the dawn of a new era of hockey—faster, stronger, and richer in spectator appeal. A forfeit was given in a similar event last April at Perth, Australia; both tournaments having flourished on artificial grass (fastturf). The problem of these controlling the new hockey stadium in Karachi was not one of finding a crowd but of accommodating twice the number the stands can hold, which is about 20,000. Live television coverage of every game was intended to ease the pressure on the gates, an expectation unrealized when the arena was filled to overflowing for the match between Pakistan and West Germany. The total takings on that day

were about 140,000 rupees (£7,000), which would have been more if everyone had paid. The demand for entry was so intense that the gates were flung open and several hundred came in free.

In some parts of the world, including Britain, the game's impetus has to struggle for gate money. Last September, for instance, in Brussels, the headquarters of the Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH), barely 25 paying spectators saw West Germany play the Netherlands in a match billed as the star turn for a four-nations tournament on natural grass. The recent increase in the number of artificial pitches in the Netherlands and West Germany, however, is an indication that continental clubs have got the message. The whole operation points to Moscow where, as in Montreal, the hockey tournament will be played on artificial surfaces except that it will be polygrass and not astroturf. There are, I believe, some

differences in resilience and bounce but the overall effect is the same.

In this new ball game that has come upon us—it has been described as an extended form of indoor hockey—there is no room for the physically weak. The results the British team were disappointing but each member of the team had acquired a high degree of physical fitness due mainly to the efforts of their trainer, Alan Bargeaves, of the North Staffordshire Polytechnic Physical Education Department (Macclesfield). In the training of the athletes, stamina and recovery. Graphs of the physical reactions of every player in training have been plotted to see how he can develop.

One of the reasons for the boundless energy displayed by Pakistani players is that their training has been fashioned on

similar lines. Samiullah, their outside-left, has earned the title of the flying horse. He has an exceptionally high work rate which can be calculated by counting the number of steps he walks, runs and sprints in a 70-minute game. He and his brother Kadimullah on the other wing—they can be mistaken for twins—usually show their pursuers a clean pair of heels. As hockey players they are naturally quick.

Each new international event makes heavier demands on mental, physical and financial resources. At the breakfast table in his Karachi hotel one morning, Wim Cornelis, the manager of the Netherlands team, spent a few moments in contemplation. He was not worried over the diminishing ball of cheese he had brought from Utrecht to appease the press. The more pressing problem was his budget which had to be worked out to cover a total commitment of 45 international matches from August 1, 1979 to July 1, 1980. The reaction of

another manager was that his country could not afford such a programme in time or money.

As far as the Karachi tournament was concerned the expenses of all seven teams were paid by the organizers. In an international hockey tournament one must expect to see Peter Duinker, who for the past 13 years has been director of the Netherlands Hockey Board. He claims to have achieved a feat no one has ever witnessed, in his lifetime more than 400 hockey matches played by the Netherlands, not all as a spectator. Much of his sporting life was given to journalism. For 17 years he worked for Algemeen Nederlands Persbureau (ANP) and was for some time their sports editor. He was also on the staff of the *Telegraaf*, if variety is the spice of life he has had plenty of it, having reported hockey, football, swimming, tennis, figure skating and skiing. His travels abroad took him to five winter Olympic Games and since 1948, all the summer games except

the 1956 event at Melbourne in which the Netherlands took no part. Apart from the deep knowledge he has of hockey, which undoubtedly is his first love, he is an expert in public relations which probably made him the perfect choice for the post of press liaison officer at the 1978 Olympic Games.

Richard Charlesworth's interests may not be so varied, but the Australian captain, came new to representing his country at both hockey and cricket. It was not true he said that he was twelfth man for one of the Test matches in Australia against Pakistan as reported in a Karachi newspaper. When the real twelfth man was taken ill he fielded for him; an event which caught the eye of the television camera and led to the report. Charlesworth (Rick as he is called) did not go to Lahore in November, 1978, for the first champions trophy tournament. He stayed behind to concentrate on cricket, hoping that as most of the leading cricketers had moved on to the

Kerry Packer series, he might get into the Australian Test side. This ambition was unrealistic and there is no hope of fulfilment now that the Packer players have come back to the fold.

And back to the West German hockey fold came their goalkeeper Klaus Ludwig. After the German triumph at Hannover in September 1978 in the European Cup, beating the Netherlands 3-2, in the final, he decided he had had enough and gave up international hockey in order to continue his studies.

The prospect of an Olympic trip to Moscow hastened his return, made all the easier by the dearth of applicants for the hazardous and often thankless post of goalkeeper. In the period of self-imposed retirement, a taste for lager helped him to acquire excessive weight which he had to shed. The headline in a German newspaper reads: "Beer without career changes to career without beer" or words to that effect.

The printing industry in Karachi must have worked overtime to produce the large number of invitation cards to dinners, parties and receptions, not all of which could be accepted. Amid this vast concourse of sporting personalities the Dental Association of Pakistan (Karachi branch) was able to discover that two dentists were present—Terry Gregg (Great Britain) and Andre Bolhuis (Netherlands). So in their honour, the Dental Association arranged a sumptuous dinner something to get their teeth into.

One of the more outstanding European players at Karachi was Wolfgang Stroder, of West Germany who scored most of his goals with his powerful conversions of corners. In spite of his heavy 28 ounce stick he still worried goalkeepers by rushing through the defence and attacking them on both flanks. They could not keep the Wolfgang from the door.

Sydney Friskin

مکرمات الکمال



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-8371234.

PUBLIC PAY

Cutting public spending plans is never an easy task. It is considerably more difficult in a world in which the price of the services which the public sector provides is rising rapidly. Since the new Government assumed office last May, Ministers have been involved in a continuing exercise of spending cuts which is not finished yet. The Prime Minister's statement recently that she would like to cut another £200m from the public spending plans for next year shows just how far her Ministers have to go before they can produce a satisfactory result. It also suggests an element of muddle in the control of public spending. This is an accurate impression, but it is important to understand the difficulties which the Government has faced in coming to terms with the situation which it inherited from its predecessors.

Because of the way in which public spending plans are expressed, the new Administration has had to cut sharply in order to stand still. It has had to replace planned growth in the volume of public spending with stability. It has also had to ensure that the efforts which it has made to control the volume of public spending are not undone by a sharp increase in the cost of its services.

Yet those costs have been increasing in the first eight months of the Government's life. The most important single component in public expenditure is

pay for Government employees. For a period of three years until the early part of 1979 pay in the economy in general and in the public sector in particular had not risen faster than prices. This caused the relative price of the labour-intensive services provided by the public sector to fall. It was clear to most observers by the early part of 1979 that this state of affairs was not likely to continue. Indeed, the winter of discontent which the Labour Government endured was the outward sign that workers in the public sector were determined to obtain larger pay rises than the private sector in order to restore them to a position which they thought fair. Yet although the signs of a sharp increase in the public sector pay rises were apparent, the last Government chose to ignore them in drawing up its long term plans for spending in the 1980s. It is the present Government which is being forced to face the consequences of this misjudgment.

In doing this it has two options at its disposal. It can carry through cuts in the volume of services which it provides through announced changes in its policy. This involves considerable anguish as the cuts are debated and will expose the Government to criticism for not having got its spending plans for the coming year right at its first attempt.

Yet it is better that the Government should do this than

hope that it can make cuts through the use of the cash limits system. In certain instances, the deliberate setting of cash limits at a level slightly too low to take account of inflation can be an effective way of bringing down public spending during a financial year. But such cuts are more damaging in their effect because they are unplanned and random, than are agreed changes in spending programmes. They are also less reliable.

The Government is probably right to base its planning of cash limits for the coming year on an increase in pay and prices of about 14 per cent. This figure will put some pressure on Government administrators to find savings without being completely unrealistic. But the Government would be wrong to place too much stress on the idea that the cash limit of 14 per cent can be readily converted into pay settlements in the public sector. Such a policy would go against the efforts which have been made to break the idea of a simple pay norm.

What the Government must do, however, is to stress that in the public sector as outside there is no substitute for productivity as the way to pay for increased living standards. It is only if public sector unions and the public alike recognize this that there can be an improvement or even a maintenance of the standard of public services in the long term.

Christians and power politics

From Canon Paul Oestreicher

Sir, Thank God Cardinal Rume (article, January 3) is prepared to accept the burdens of prophetic Christian leadership. It has never been more needed. With gentle moderation, in language much less strident than that of Jesus of Nazareth might have used, the good Cardinal chose to remind us at the beginning of this decade that to continue at the death of millions of God's children by starvation in the interests of the security of the rich nations cannot be squared with Christian discipleship. It is profoundly sinful.

My colleague Canon Bentley (*The Times*, January 8), in challenging the Cardinal, puts himself firmly in the long Jewish and Christian tradition exemplified by the Temple rulers in Jerusalem who turned Jesus over to the Roman governor for execution because the *par* *volunt*, for all its shortcomings, was more acceptable than the risk involved in struggling for God's Kingdom on earth. The Cardinal does not underestimate the difficulties. He knows as well as Canon Bentley that belief in man's divine dignity is not a sufficient basis for a programme for political and social reform. If the Resurrection is true, then Christians are committed to a belief in the possibility of the apparently impossible, both here and hereafter. A Church that proclaims less than that has no unique *raison d'être*, no ultimate good news for man.

Canon Bentley can conceive of circumstances when, in the pursuit of national defence, the use of nuclear weapons may be justified. I cannot even think of an argument based on enlightened self-interest that would justify the high risk of turning our planet into a nuclear wasteland. The ethics of Jesus, which Canon Bentley dismisses as "Utopian dreams", rule out any such calculation.

Cardinal Rume is right to dream dreams. But he is far from pleading for Utopia now. He simply puts his finger on the fact that the long run not only many lives would have been saved but peaceful intercourse between nations been better secured if a government with the power to punish international evil-doers had promptly done so. Is it not, yet, the dream of the United Nations? International organizations do not yet possess this indispensable power?

Yours faithfully,
F. A. HAYEK,
Vrachstrasse 27,
D-7800 Freiburg (Breisgau),
West Germany.

Mrs Gandhi's return

From Mr Philip Jackson

Sir, I am, in turn, astonished that you express surprise (leader, January 8) at the speed with which the Indian people have apparently "forgotten" the excesses of Mrs Gandhi's Emergency rule by re-electing her with an unprecedented majority. The vast mass, life is a daily struggle against poverty, an often debilitating climate and bureaucratic who as frequently hinder as help the poor who themselves cannot afford the bribes, however small, that are usually needed to make things happen. As the *Vopod* Bank has so lucidly stated, there is "a condition of life so characterized by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings, high infant mortality and low life expectancy as to be beyond any reasonable definition of human decency".

It is, therefore, really surprising that people in this condition should look upon the kind of freedom under democracy which we hold so dear as a luxury which they might be glad to consider after other, more basic, needs have been fulfilled? I do not think so.

They mostly remember that under Mrs Gandhi prices were more or less stable; it was safe to walk about after dark; trains ran on time; and officials of government and state-run organizations worked more efficiently and showed a more ready cooperation with the poorer sections. Small wonder that, above all other considerations, they have voted for this situation to return, for without it they have even less chance of giving their children a better life.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP JACKSON,
365 Woodstock Road, Oxford.

Hospitality to MEPs

From Lord Bessborough

Sir, As former vice-president of the old indirectly-elected European Parliament, I should like to add my voice to those of Lord Greenwood, Lord Walton and Lord Bethell that both Houses of the British Parliament should be as generous as possible in offering facilities to Members of the European Parliament.

I spoke strongly on the subject in the Lords select committee on the European Communities, but was unfortunately unable to repeat these arguments on the floor of the House due to other parliamentary engagements.

I well remember, during six and a half years in the Parliament, how useful it was to be able to attend committee meetings in Westminster and have unrestricted access to the House of Lords library, restaurant and guest room.

It is good to know from Robin Squire, MP, (January 3) that our Leader in Europe, Mr. Scott-Hopkins, and other MEPs do attend meetings in the Commons (and I may say on occasion in the Lords) but I feel MEPs should have some kind of automatic right of access to Palace of Westminster facilities and the galleries in both Houses.

I cannot believe that so many would attend at any one time as seriously to impede the services rendered to United Kingdom members.

Yours faithfully,
KESSBOROUGH,
House of Lords.

Freeing the hostages in Tehran

From Professor F. A. Hayek, FBA

Sir, I am genuinely puzzled by the restraint shown by the United States in the current emergency and would be grateful to be instructed what the moral or political arguments are against the kinds of steps which in the past any of the great powers would have taken in such a situation.

It seems to me that the future of peaceful international relations and the safety of persons in foreign countries would have been much better served if, after the Iranian Government placed itself outside the community of nations by approving the holding captive of the personnel of the United States embassy, the United States Government had at once sent an Ambassador to Iran, and the Americans (and perhaps ourselves) would not now be looking for the military facilities and political allies they now need to reinforce the position of the West (and its friends) throughout Arabia and the Western Indian Ocean.

Yours faithfully,
ELDON GRIFFITHS,
House of Commons.

From Mr Brian Thomas
Sir, I am afraid that the Director of the United Nations Association (January 5) is mistaken. The Soviet Union and Afghanistan are not "perpetra to a dispute", and therefore there is no question of the Soviet invasion being considered under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter. However, many thousands of Afghans may have objected, their existing Government has not, and is therefore not in dispute with the Government of the Soviet Union.

Acts of aggression, which is what the invasion presumably is, can be considered only under Chapter VII; that is, with the Soviet Union exercising its veto, as it now has.

And that is as it should be. The United Nations was not designed to deal with acts of aggression committed by any of the five principal powers. Had the veto not been incorporated into the Charter, it is most unlikely that either the Soviet Union or the United States would have consented to join.

When kind of aggression the Soviet Union has now committed is by no means as clear as some of your correspondents suggest. For what she has done is to move more troops into a country over which she already had considerable control. With the proposed nuclear build-up in Western Europe, the continuing hostility of China and the increasingly unstable situation in the Moslem world (including Afghanistan under the Amin regime), it is perhaps not altogether surprising that she was not prepared to risk losing whatever influence she already had.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN THOMAS,
Principal Lecturer in International Relations,
Polytechnic of North London,
2 Eden Grove, N7.

Gladstone's return

From the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry

Sir, Fresh accusations made against my ancestors of trying to "rig" the 1880 Midlothian Election by Dr. Matthew (December 7) remain unanswered. Not only did he admit to the rigging, but he also admitted to the rigging. This is absurd because it would have been impossible: fears do not have issues, do not pay rents and, as perpetual proprietors of their land, cannot be evicted.

Four accusations of vote rigging by bullying and manufacturing fagot votes ring equally hollow in view of Gladstone's own public tributes to both his opponent and his father, which he would hardly have made to anyone standing in the district, the able death of his father by Liberal Party activists in the heat of political battle and repeated by later-day writers.

Here are some examples:
At the opening meeting of the Midlothian campaign in Edinburgh, November 26 1879:
"I will begin by avowing my personal respect for my noble opponent."

Saving the Marines

From General Sir Nigel Poett

Sir, The article in *The Times* of January 5, headed "Admirals saved Royal Marines and Wrens" puts emphasis on only one of the conclusions of the Harwood committee report on the size and shape of the Armed Forces, 1984.

Since this was an exercise aimed at reduction of public expenditure it might be of interest to have a closer look at how the committee reached its conclusions.

The Chiefs of Staff Committee had been given by ministers a financial ceiling to cover defence expenditure but had not been able to agree either on the amount or on the division of the money. The Minister of Defence, Mr. A. V. Alexander, accordingly set up a working party, known as the Harwood Committee, to study the problem and report direct to him.

The committee was given a limit of £700m within which to make their proposals. In addition to Mr. Harwood, the Civil Service chairman, there were three service members, Admiral Charles Lambie (later First Sea Lord), A.V.M. Ronald Ivelaw-Chapman (later Air Chief Marshal) and the writer of this letter. The service members were allowed to consult their ministries on facts and on costs but they were not to seek advice. Their conclusions

a region which supplies 60 per cent of Europe's, 25 per cent of North America's and 90 per cent of Japan's oil.

President Carter is right to respond by "discretion" in Iran and "valour" against the Soviet's advance towards the Khyber Pass and the Straits of Hormuz. But need any of this have happened?

Every time another domino topples in this vital area, I am reminded of the folly of Britain's premature abandonment of the Gulf. We could have stayed. We should have stayed, at least while our Gulf friends wanted us to do so. If we had, I venture to suggest that the Shah would not have over-liberalized Iran, thereby hastening his downfall, and the Americans (and perhaps ourselves) would not now be looking for the military facilities and political allies they now need to reinforce the position of the West (and its friends) throughout Arabia and the Western Indian Ocean.

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House of Commons.

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Yours faithfully,
BRIAN THOMAS,
Principal Lecturer in International Relations,
Polytechnic of North London,
2 Eden Grove, N7.

... I render to the Duke of Buccleuch this tribute, that he is in all respects what a British nobleman ought to be, and sets to us all an example in the active and conscientious discharge of duty... which we shall do well from our different points of view to follow. (Bear, bear and cheer!)

April 2 1880—at Bonnyrigg, (in mid-campaign).
"... I never wish to mention the name of Lord Dalkeith without expressing my personal respect for him, as a nobleman, as a statesman, as a man of excellent and admirable qualities... I thank Lord Dalkeith for the courtesy with which he has conducted this contest... having expressed my obligations for his gentlemanly conduct."

Four years later, the Duke of Buccleuch died, and a subscription was raised for a memorial to him. Not only did Gladstone subscribe the maximum amount allowed, but in a letter to Lord Dalkeith, the memorial was referred to it as a "tribute to his public and private character in a long and honoured, as well as distinguished career... I assure you that no one joins in the movement with greater pleasure."

Yours faithfully,
BUCCLEUCH,
Boswell,
Selkirk.

were to be their own conclusions and not influenced by their military or political masters.
The struggle to get within £700m took some three months of concentrated work, analysis, costing and discussion. The proposal to merge the Royal Marines with the Army establishment was rejected by the most drastic: even bomber command in its then form could not remain; Chatham Dockyard, a political "hot potato" of the day, would have to go.

The conclusions of the report were unanimous but when they were finally passed to the service ministries, there was naturally a good deal of dissent, particularly in the Admiralty, as your article indicates. The chiefs of staff collectively, however, were kind in their comments. The report had served to show that the £700m proposal was not sufficient to meet fully the defence commitments of the day.

The Harwood Committee itself ended on a happy note. They invited the chiefs of staff to dine and afterwards to enjoy and meet the other "crazy gang" at the Victoria Palace.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL POETT,
Swaynes Mead,
Great Durnford,
Wiltshire,
January 6.

Just for the record, 200 of the wagons are for the Bangladesh Broad Gauge, 5ft 6ins (British Rail standard gauge is 4ft 8½ins) and the remainder for the metre gauge. So far, 82 wagons have been sent.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. SCOTT,
Freight Manager,
Southern Region,
British Railways,
Waterloo Station, SE1.

Private access to Public Records

From the Keeper of Public Records
Sir, There is one point in Mr J. C. Sainsbury's letter on the prospective closure of the Public Record Office Reading Rooms in Chancery Lane (January 9) on which I can offer some reassurance.

It will be our aim to transfer Chancery Lane records in frequent use to the new Repository so as to reduce to a minimum both the risk of damage to records in transit between the two repositories and the number of items not immediately available to readers at Kew. Yours faithfully,
A. W. MABBS,
Public Record Office,
Chancery Lane, WC2,
January 11.

From Professor R. H. C. Davis
Sir, I am glad that Mr Sainsbury has drawn attention to the proposed closure of the Public Record Office's reading rooms in Chancery Lane.

One does not have to deny the need for economy in order to protest at the folly of the present plan. The proposal is not to remove all the records to Kew, but simply to move all readers there, wherever records they may want to see. The earlier, and most valuable, records will still be housed in Chancery Lane, but once the readers have been moved to Kew, the documents which they request will be "vanned" out to them daily.

As a result, fragile records will suffer from increased handling, and security will be greatly reduced. Will it be impossible for a record to be lost in transit? Will the vans never break down, never have accidents, never catch fire and never have to be unloaded in the rain? Will they never be robbed or mislaid?

It would not be difficult to arrange for a load including, say, Domesday Book or Magna Carta, which could effectively be held to ransom.

In short, Sir, it is hard to think of a more irresponsible proposal from a Keeper (sic) of the Public Records.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. C. DAVIS,
President,
The Historical Association,
59A Kennington Park Road, SE11.

When Greek met Greek

From Mr J. Alty

Sir, You refer (January 8) that Mr Karamanlis has taken the opportunity presented by the current talk of boycotting the Olympic Games to suggest that they should be held each time in Greece, and also to deplore the entry of politics into a centuries-old institution dedicated to culture and peace.

Let me no one imagine that the Greeks managed things any better in the old days. If Mr Karamanlis were to turn to his Thucydides, he would find that in the games of 420 BC over 2,000 armed guards were placed around the sanctuary at Olympia because the Spartans' organizers feared that the Spartans (one of the two superpowers at the time) might try to force their way in. The Spartans had been excluded from the games by the organizers, the men of Elis, for refusing to pay a fine after taking advantage of the Olympic truce to capture a couple of Elis forts.

The Spartans did not deny the act of aggression but claimed that at the time of their supposed violation of the truce they were not yet bound by it. For many of the participants in the games of 428 BC a major reason for attending seems to have been to use the occasion to reach agreement on a policy of supporting the island of Mytilene in its rebellion from Athens.

An institution dedicated to peace, perhaps, but, unfortunately, free from the taint of politics and war in ancient times as infrequently as in modern.

Yours faithfully,
J. ALTY,
49B Linden Mansions,
Horsey Lane, N6.

Writing popular headlines

From Mr Larry Lamb

Sir, If your correspondent Martin Upham (January 10) knows as little about steel as he knows about newspapers, then he is not to be taken seriously.

On what evidence does he base his absurd and offensive allegation that writing headlines not borne out by the story is "a technique normally associated with tabloids"?

The word "technique" implies volition.

Is Mr Upham seriously suggesting that journalists on popular newspapers have yet forgotten the word "tabloid" (which means only to the shape) deliberately write headlines which are not covered in the text?

If so, he is libelling a great many members of my profession.

In over 30 years in journalism, I have worked for a great variety of publications.

Of all of them, the two most concerned with fairness and accuracy were *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror*. Colleagues who have worked for unpopular newspapers are unanimous in their view that our checking process is far more meticulous, and our requirements more exacting than those to which they were previously accustomed.

Of course, there have always been people foolish enough to confuse bold type and big pictures with irresponsibility.

Few of them, in my experience, have bothered to study the newspapers they so glibly condemn.

LARRY LAMB,
Editor,
The Sun.

Pronouncing Kabul

From Mr Harry Jamieson

Sir, During my time as a consultant in adult literacy in Afghanistan, I found that the most acceptable pronunciation of Kabul was to use the English word "cobble".

Yours faithfully,
HARRY JAMIESON,
45 Green Lane,
Greasby,
Merseyside.

STILL IN DEFIANCE OF THE COURT

The visits to London and Paris this week by Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the European Commissioner responsible for agriculture, are a reminder that the issue of British lamb exports to France has still not been solved. In spite of the fact that the European Court of Justice has ruled against them, the French have maintained their restrictions in one form or another. This point needs to be emphasised again because there is a danger of its being lost sight of in the welter of subjects now being discussed within the Community, not least the question of Britain's contributions to the Community budget. Unlike any of the others, it is perfectly clear cut. The French have broken Community rules, and have been adjudged by the Court of Justice to have done so. By their attitude so far, they have already weakened the authority of the Court, and hence respect for the rules of the Community in general. They need not expect to be allowed to trade off their acceptance of the Court's ruling against concessions by other countries on other issues.

There is no question that lamb is a sensitive subject in France, at least among farmers. French

producers of lamb are by and large inefficient, and prices are a great deal higher than they are in this country. An influx of British lamb would be likely to bring prices down, which would be good news for consumers, but could be ruinous for the producers. So the producers have made sure that their fears are well known, and they have received strong support from, for instance, the Gaullists. At a time when the eyes of French politicians generally are firmly fixed on next year's presidential elections, when the Gaullists have made it clear that they will be challenging President Giscard d'Estaing, the Government is extremely reluctant to open the market to British lamb. The fact that the Court of Justice has ruled that they should do so does not cut much ice in France.

It is not as if the Government would be required to stand by and watch its farmers ruined. There is nothing in Community rules which prevents it from providing assistance in one form or another to those who might be threatened by a drop in prices. Since there is no Community policy for lamb, national governments are free to do this. It could of course be expensive for

France, given the level of prices now, and this leads to the suspicion that the French aim is essentially to obtain funds from the rest of the Community to handle a largely French difficulty.

It is very important, however, that the Community should not be induced to adopt a policy on lamb and mutton which would simply repeat the mistakes of the past by setting prices too high, encouraging overproduction, and adding one more sector in which there are surpluses to be subsidized. One of the reasons why discussions of a common policy for lamb—and goat meat—have made so little progress in Brussels is that French ideas appear to go in that direction, at a time when it should be obvious that the need is to cut wasteful expenditure on agriculture, not add to it. The cost is liable to be magnified when Greece and Spain, with their flocks of sheep and goats, become members. It is most unfortunate that feelings between Britain and France should be inflamed in this way over an issue which directly affects relatively few people. But the implications are important for the future development of a Community that is not hampered by costs that can be avoided.

and a primitive Aussie on the run from the LSE.
There might have been reason for Equity to complain (perhaps it did), for the performances had a polish that verged on poaching. But the complaints which have got into print so far are from the Scottish National Party ("racist slur of the Scottish people") and two Labour MPs who want to know if the Government had given its permission for officers to impersonate trade unionists in a derogatory manner. Nothing yet from the Council of the Stock Exchange or, surprisingly, from Australia where cricket's mission of peace among the nations has been backfiring. These protests, faithfully matching in caricature the caricatures that provoked them, will be greeted by General Kitchin's mill, where the effect of everything the army may do in relation to civil disorder, as has now been shown, is the subject of careful study.

CAMBERLEY, COLONELS AND COUPS

Television snippets from Camberley showing staff officers of the future studying counter-insurgency operations under the command of the army's leading practitioner and theoretician in that branch of the military art, Major-General Sir Frank Kitson, appear to have been watched more supinely than some of those concerned had expected. Perhaps the public's sensitivity to the subject had been over-estimated. After all, when for the past ten years the army has had at any one time up to 12,000 of its men actively engaged in a province of the United Kingdom in operations falling under that heading, it can hardly be thought outrageous for the Staff College to pay serious attention to the role of the military when called upon to intervene in support of the civil authorities. Training exercises of that kind do not imply that the general staff is banking

on civil war in Britain; still less that young colonels are grooming themselves for a coup d'état. It is more like an encouraging sign that the army has thrown off its old habit of preparing for the next outbreak of hostilities strictly on the basis of the previous one.

All the same, it turned out that there was enough in the programme to attract a certain amount of flak from the usual quarters. Most provocative apparently was the bit that was most entertaining as viewed from the solomonic of an armchair. This, for the benefit of any who may not have seen it, was an interlude given in the spirit of a battalion concert party, interrupting more serious study of the collapse of civil order. Four colonial-instructors took the stage to portray four revolutionary stereotypes: a bowler and broiled City mole; a shop steward with a salty line in marxist jargon; a kilted freedom-fighter;

and a primitive Aussie on the run from the LSE.

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Tourism in Ulster

From Dr J. J. O'Connor

Sir, I assume that Mr John D. Taylor (December 29) speaks for his party when he congratulates the Government for its veto of the EEC proposal to spend £5 million to encourage tourism development and encourage rural crafts in the border areas of Northern Ireland. The spending was to be limited to seven districts, of which six have pro-republican majorities. The five regions to be excluded from the scheme have pro-British majorities.

Such a step would certainly have reversed the traditional policies of the employment and development of the Ulsterist Party in government at Stormont over 50 years. The success of the Ulsterist policy may be judged from the report of the Fair Employment Agency (*The Times*, January 12, 1978).

This shows that the number of unemployed Catholics in the Province was 2.5 times greater than the number of unemployed Protestants, that the jobs available to Catholics were in the lower-paid end of the range. Since only one third of the population of the Province are Catholic, these figures demonstrate that the unemployment rate amongst Catholics was five times that amongst Protestants.

Mr Taylor described the proposal to spend even such a paltry sum as discrimination at its worst. Since, as your correspondent noted in 1978, the unemployment rate amongst Catholics is "long regarded by local politicians as one of the main causes of violence", the proposal may also be seen as an attempt, however feeble, to reverse previous discriminatory policies.

It would be interesting to know if the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland was a party to the decision to use the veto, when the proposal had been agreed by the last Labour Government.

Since January, 1978, I have been waiting in vain for an announcement from the Secretaries of State of a decision to spend very much larger sums in an attempt to remove the continuing imbalance of opportunity in the Province.

Would Mr Atkins now be prepared to announce that such spending will be a primary aim of the next government in the Province, whether direct or devolved? The Catholic community there might then be encouraged to take a less jaundiced view of their future prospects as members of the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN O'CONNOR,
St Peter's College,
Oxford.

British Council cuts

From Lord Kissin of Camden

Sir, May I raise again the very important issue of the public spending cuts' impact on the British Council.

Although these cuts must necessarily be widely spread, the Council cuts do not adequately reflect the political, cultural and economic advantages that accrue to Britain and the world from its activities. The Government's materialistic attitude seems to be based on the assumption that a nation's power and influence depend

upon its economic performance. This is not so.

Other countries, whatever their political or economic situations, are not ready as yet before to embrace our language, study our literature and accept our professional standards and technology, and the educational services which British Council representatives provide abroad on a scale which is neither lavish nor extravagant, contribute substantially to international understanding and world peace. To reduce this now is to lose irretrievably many years' experience and good will.

The Council has said that, if its grant is to be reduced, it must cut its job-related programme and export promotion work. Overseas students who receive training here will, in whatever sphere they return, create a greater understanding of our thinking and so will, in many cases, contribute to our economic

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Investment trusts/Unit trusts

Get-together of the managed funds

A flurry among the doves was created by the bid for Tyndall Managers last week. Tyndall, the eighth largest unit trust group in the country, will be indirectly acquired by Globe Investment Trust.

The bid for the investment trust world is bidding for West of England Trust which controls Tyndall. As Globe has been promised 58 per cent of West of England shares, the outcome of the bid is not in doubt.

This deal comes hard on the heels of Rothschild Investment Trust's acquisition through its Hume Holdings subsidiary's successful offer for merchant bank Dawson Day of Target Trust Managers, the seventh largest unit trust group.

And, as if this activity at the top end of the scale were not enough, there was a tit-bit at the end of the week that Hume Holdings, active once more, was bidding for the sister Carlisle and Tyneside investment trusts with a view to uniting them and slotting them into the Target stable.

A variety of reasons have been put forward to explain the link-up between investment trust and unit trust groups. Some have even argued that the bids could have been defensive. Investment trust companies are once more standing at a 30 per cent discount to net asset value — which historically is around the level at which predators tend to descend upon investment trust companies.

But Rothschild Investment Trust is too individualistic in its holdings and philosophy to be considered a conventional fund management group. As for Globe, it is far too large to be digested by any group other than, possibly, the Post Office pension fund.

No, both investment trusts have moved into the unit trust industry for positive reasons. The fact that unit trust charges were freed from restriction at the end of last year may have been a small, contributory factor in management thinking, but not a major one.

The key motives were the need for a shop window, a market platform and entry into the growth area of unit linked life assurance. At another level, the rapprochement between investment trusts and unit trusts is also one of the first responses from the managed funds industry to the problems as well as possibilities opened up by the abolition of exchange controls last October.

Much as the investment trust industry has improved the quality of the statistical information published by its own association, both shareholders and, more important, prospective shareholders have difficulties in finding out how well their funds have done vis-à-vis competitors both within and without the industry. The fact that share prices stand at varying discounts—very occasionally at premiums—to net asset value does not help.

It is much easier to measure unit trust performance and gauge how good or bad a management group is from such statistics; hence the advantages of a comprehensive stable embracing both forms of funds. Open-ended unit trusts, with prices linked to the value of the underlying asset, also have an obvious attraction for investment trust company managers still locked into a situation of a shrinking number of investors in closed-end funds.

The virtues of unit-linked life assurance need little extolling. It has proved to be the best selling form of life assurance and is certainly one of the most

flexible devices available to any organization which has aspirations to become a financial services company.

To some extent, it could be fair to say that managers to overcome the problems of coping with investment markets worldwide are defensive. It is not merely that big may be beautiful in this context, but that it needs size not only to gain expertise and depth in the various world markets, but also to be taken seriously there.

All these reasons (which do not apply in toto to each deal discussed) suggest that the forays of Globe and Rothschild Investment Trust are not individual and isolated events. They give every indication of being the next stage in a trend towards a multi-faceted financial services group. For there are already smaller conglomerations. Gartmore, GT and Crescent, for example, are investment trust groups which are all well-established in the unit trust industry.

It may take time for further developments to emerge, but big groups such as Murray Johnstone, which has offshore funds and a modest foothold in the unit trust sector, and Touche Renmant whose United Kingdom-oriented funds do not always get sufficient credit for good performance, must be among those watching Globe and Rothschild Investment Trust activities with above average interest.

Meantime, it is worth remembering that virtually every pension fund of any size still probably has an investment trust or two on its shopping list, although until the Budget has cleared up the question marks about capital gains tax the sector could remain quiet.

Margaret Stone

Grouse

The increase in the mortgage interest rate to 15 per cent from the beginning of this month has been a great shock to the financial system of most borrowers. One reader had an even greater shock. He found that his society had calculated the monthly interest repayment on an outstanding balance some two thousands larger than it actually was.

He discovered the error quite by accident. The form to amend his banker's standing order suggested that he should negotiate how much he should pay each month if the quoted sum appeared too large. It was too large, so he went to see the manager to

discuss how much he could afford to pay.

It was only when they were discussing how much repayments would be at different extensions to the term of the loan, that it came to light that the society was doing its sums on the wrong total.

How much easier, sensible and reassuring it would have been if the balance outstanding had been included on the original form by the society (and by the other societies which also fail to give this basic information at the time of mortgage rate changes). This borrower could have been paying £30-£40 a month more than was necessary for quite a long time before the error came to light.

Taxation

Lower paid do well with their perks

It is a bizarre feature of the British tax system that a species of class discrimination is introduced into the tax treatment of fringe benefits. Few people seem to appreciate the extent to which lower paid employees have a potentially more favourable tax position on their perks.

An employee is taxed under Schedule E (according to the legislation) on his "salary, wages, fees, perquisites and profits whatsoever" arising from the employment. This is a resounding and, you may feel, all-embracing phrase. Yet not all payments, even though they are in cash and made by an employer to an employee are necessarily taxable.

If the motive for the payment is not a reward for services but for some other reason, then the amount involved may not be taxable. For instance, when the Football Association paid Bobby Moore £1,000 after he had captained the victorious England World Cup football team, the Inland Revenue were sufficiently ungenerous to ask for their share. The court held (Moore v Griffiths) that the payment was made in recognition of his achievement and not as a reward for services rendered.

Similar principles have been applied to gifts to employees who pass examinations and to compensation to an employee who moved house because of his job and lost money on the transaction and to other minor gifts.

The distinction between higher and lower paid employees arises where benefits other than cash are arranged. So it is important to establish the difference between the two classes.

You will be regarded as a higher paid employee, if you earn more than £8,500 a year in 1979-80 or if you are a part-time director or if you are a full-time director who is not to control more than 5 per cent of the company's shares. When calculating the level of remuneration at £8,500, your expenses repaid to you must

be included together with the taxable value of your benefits. The distinction that you are a higher paid employee.

For example, if your salary amounts to £7,500, your expenses reimbursed are £800 and you have a business car provided for you on which the benefit would be assessed at £250, then you would be regarded as higher paid. Your total remuneration would be £8,550 and you would be taxed under the principles to be outlined in the next article on fringe benefits for the higher paid.

In general, a lower paid employee is subject to tax on a fringe benefit to the extent that the benefit can be turned into cash. If the benefit cannot be turned into cash, it is not normally taxable.

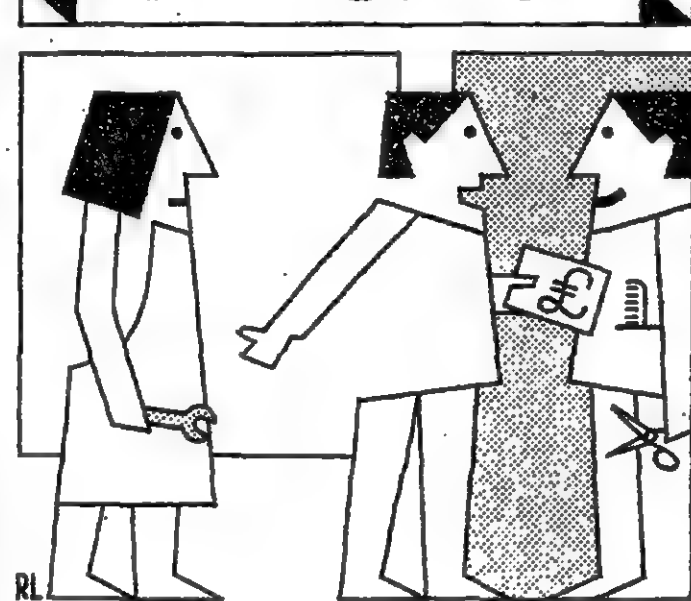
The loan of a car, for example, is not normally a taxable benefit to a lower paid employee. But the employer who wishes to provide a tax-free benefit, such as, for example, a weekly visit to the hairdresser for certain employees, must bear in mind certain important principles:

The service should be provided to the employee in the course of his employment and on the understanding that the liability belongs to the employer. So, in this case the employer should make all the arrangements with the hairdresser. Any previous arrangements made by the employee in which he therefore has a pecuniary liability must not be taken over by his employer.

Secondly, the employer should be invoiced by the hairdresser and pay the bill direct. Reimbursement of cash expenses under these circumstances would be remuneration and the employee would have to claim that the expenses were wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred for the performance of his or her duties. It is highly doubtful if most employees would be able to make such a valid claim for a visit to the hairdresser.

Finally, a prepaid voucher system should be avoided.

S.TODD



Even if a voucher could only be exchanged for services and was not capable of being exchanged for cash, it is still specifically subject to tax on the cost of the voucher to the employer.

Employers can provide lower paid employees with season tickets for travel from home to work and, although these have the appearance of vouchers, repeated assurances in the House of Commons allow one to be taxed as such. However, the first two principles regarding pecuniary liability and direct payment must be followed scrupulously.

If the benefit can be turned into cash, then the tax is charged on the amount for which the asset in question could be sold by the employee—the second-hand value. Such second-hand value could be substantially less than the amount that the asset cost the employer. For example, a personally tailored suit—such as figured in the important Wilkins v Rogerson case—has a fairly low and arbitrarily fixed second-hand value.

There is another important proviso that has to be made. If

you, as an employee, accept a reduction in salary in order to receive a particular benefit, then the Inland Revenue may want to tax you on that benefit by the amount of your salary reduction.

This important principle was established in the case of an employee who had the use of a car in return for a salary sacrifice which could be reinstated at the employee's option. This salary sacrifice quantified the taxable value of the car, even though it would not have been otherwise taxable (Heaton v Bell).

Fringe benefits, cars, pension payments and even vouchers are not generally subject to National Insurance contributions. Employers and employees together have to pay up to 20 per cent of gross remuneration in National Insurance contributions over and above income tax. So careful use of fringe benefits for the lower paid is likely to prove an excellent investment.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

Round-up

National Savings • AMEV link

On February 4 the new 19th issue of National Savings Certificates goes on sale. The £10 unit, with a compound interest rate of 10.23 per cent, matures at £16.33 tax-free after five years. This is equivalent to a gross yield of 14.76 per cent.

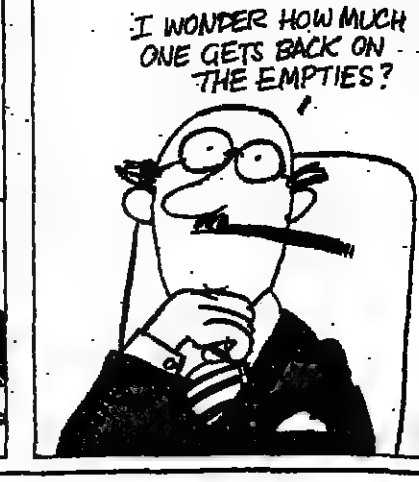
The maximum holding is £1,500 and as the yield is competitive with the redemption yields on short-dated government stocks, investors who like a quiet life should take up their maximum allocation. However, the running yield on long-dated stock, about 14.5 per cent, will give current high income and prospects of capital gains later.

AMEV Life Assurance has arranged for Framlington Unit Management to take over the investment management of all its funds (except the Property fund).

As Framlington has one of the most consistently successful unit trust performance records, the news should be welcomed by AMEV policyholders, provided it does not stretch Framlington's investment management capacities too much, which does not seem likely at present.

The deal continues the growing links between the organisations: AMEV's Investment Bond and Teaver savings plan are already linked to a range of Framlington funds.

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



BY ROSS

Insurance

Insurers have been concentrating this week on household policies, introducing new wordings, along with higher premiums. Sun Alliance Insurance Group, a major insurer, is following the trend set earlier by the General Accident by increasing its premium rate for buildings from £1.25 per £1,000 insured to £1.50.

The General Accident and the Phoenix have introduced "plain English" household policies—with varying success. At the same time the Phoenix has increased its building rates and is putting its household business on line.

It may take time for further developments to emerge, but big groups such as Murray Johnstone, which has offshore funds and a modest foothold in the unit trust sector, and Touche Renmant whose United Kingdom-oriented funds do not always get sufficient credit for good performance, must be among those watching Globe and Rothschild Investment Trust activities with above average interest.

Meantime, it is worth remembering that virtually every pension fund of any size still probably has an investment trust or two on its shopping list, although until the Budget has cleared up the question marks about capital gains tax the sector could remain quiet.

Margaret Stone

Policies in plain English for the householder



Instance, both have "civil compromise" as an insured peril. This, however, is not a sufficient damage, as one might think. At neither company's press conference were insurers prepared to explain what they meant by the term, but it is, I believe, more serious than a riot.

The General Accident policy looks daunting—34 pages of legal document and 30 pages of commentary—although some pages of commentary carry only a few words. The maximum cover is £1.80 per £1,000 and giving virtually "all risks" cover on buildings, is largely partly because the main perils are split out in it, followed by the exceptions.

Markets research among 100 householders showed that they did not want to be told that an accidental damage was covered, subject to the exclusions, but wanted to be reassured by seeing the traditional perils, and others, listed and this has increased the length.

Fortunately, there is a comprehensive index and the General Accident seems to expect householders only to look at the policy when disaster strikes and not to read it when it arrives.

Some tidying up is necessary. The policy refers to claims being "adjusted" (eg, for wear and tear if there is under-insurance), when it would be much easier to have said "reduced". And there is some uncertainty in the advice about what to do when leaving the house in the winter.

The commentary says the water and central heating systems may need to be drained, presumably hoping that people will undertake this chore, although not making it a condition.

Although the policy still has some faults, it is now written in an easy-to-read style, with extensive use of the word "you". A fresh schedule will be issued at each renewal and will be subject to any change. The General Accident hopes that,

when there is a claim, policyholders and claims officials will be "talking the same language".

The Phoenix has taken a different line. Instead of basic black and white drawings, it has full colour illustrations, starting off with the smiling face of the Chief General Manager. There are five pages of definitions.

Each time a word which has been defined appears in the text it is in bold type. All exclusions are in italics. The commentary appears on the same page as the strict policy wording and it all has a neat appearance.

There are many variations in the actual cover given by the two policies and the Phoenix appears to have made 40 improvements in the course of re-writing the policy. It includes loss of personal money, cover for fraudulent use of lost credit cards and for deterioration of food in a deep freezer resulting from breakdown and so on; at present most other insurers will give

such cover, but charge separately for it.

Boats and caravans can be added to the Phoenix policy and through its partly owned company, DAS Legal Expenses Insurance, Co Ltd legal expenses insurance can be added for £12.50, instead of £15 if you buy the cover separately.

In the next few years then cover (applying to defence costs as well as for pursuing rights against motorists, shops, repairers, neighbours and so on) is likely to become more popular.

Both companies rightly include a photo-copy of the original proposal, since it forms part of the contract. Unfortunately, both adopt the traditional line regarding sums insured, leaving the individual householder to calculate the cost of rebuilding the house and the value of its contents, although some guidance is given.

That would seem to be a missed opportunity. Already the Phoenix has been criticised for a scheme under which the Provincial, have been able to introduce a simplified and readily understandable buildings and contents policy based on the number of rooms and location of the house. Northern Sun, too, have simplified buildings insurance.

Neither the General Accident nor the Phoenix in its literature offers reduced premiums in return for a large excess, although both might consider such a proposition. In any case, however, Bradford Pinnacle (wholly-owned by the Phoenix) will be introducing a basic policy covering contents only (maximum £20,000) with a fixed excess of £100, which roughly has the cost of Phoenix policy without such an excess. And the full wording of the policy is reproduced on the back of the single-sheet proposal form.

John Drummond

The day they called the water cannon out

The following extract, reprinted from the Dartmoor Globe and Argus represents yet another chapter in the history of Lieutenant-Colonel Rudolph Grog-Bevington, the Machiavelli of Allied Elderberry Wines, and of the co-conspirators of his colourful financial world. The head line is "Amazing Scenes at Sicklepath Meeting—Trousers Lost in Melée".

"There were amazing scenes yesterday at the Sicklepath village meeting called to decide the fate of the Great Grimpen Mire. Such was the confusion that unaccountably the trousers of a score of persons belonging to farmer George Mulch were lost during the mêlée. 'I was amazed', commented Mr Mulch afterwards.

"The meeting began on the village green, just an hour before the parish council was due to discuss the bid for the Mire from the Great Rockville and Hong Kong Mining Company. As recently revealed in these columns, over a hundred years ago the Mire had been left by the then Sir Henry Baskerville to the Village of Sicklepath as a recreation area and nature reserve in perpetuity. Last month, however, mining consultants, MacOgle,

de Fame, discovered that the mud of which the Mire is composed is unusually rich in tin ore, thus giving rise to the bid.

"The row is over the terms of Sir Henry's will, which are so obscure that there is no way of telling who is legally responsible for representing the village in the forthcoming negotiations. Sicklepath Parish Council, whose Chairperson is none other than Elizabeth, Lady Baskerville, the present Sir Henry's mother, argues that it alone has the right to act.

"On the other hand there is a strong body of local opinion, led by Lady (Elizabeth) Baskerville, Sir Henry's wife, that the matter should be decided by the community as a whole. It was to air these views that the village meeting was called, which was attended by almost the entire population of 500.

"As she was about to address the meeting, Mr Kevin Ludgate, local convenor of the NASTI (National Association of Sicklepath Tiddlers, Turncreepers and Idle-bashers) marched up to the platform with a banner carrying the words 'No Capitalist Pigs in our Mire'. He demanded that any money arising out of the sale should be used to provide a fitting memorial for the Sicklepath

Martyrs, three early trade union leaders at Allied Elderberry Wines, who, overcome by the fumes, fell—or were possibly pushed—into the berry-fuddling machinery in 1872.

When Lady Baskerville protested at this interruption, marking her protest by striking Mr Ludgate over the left eyebrow with her water can, the proceedings rapidly became more informal. Scuffles broke out between the berry-fuddling followers of Mr Ludgate and other villagers present at the meeting.

"Indiscriminate action was also taken by various supporters of the parish council faction led by Mr Uriah Stoot, head-keeper to Col Rudolf Grog-Bevington, who has cunningly positioned themselves before the meeting in order to heckle and throw rotten eggs. Running fights developed as the proceedings moved towards the parish hall, where sporadic beatings of eggs could be heard as the debate broke up.

"Eventually, with all control gone and a number of injured lying on the ground, order was restored by the Water Cannon Squad of the Okehampton Police. These measures were sufficient to disperse the crowd and the services of the

Dartmoor Combined Cadet Force which had been standing in reserve to provide duties in aid of the civil power were therefore not required. 'I was amazed', said Captain Reginald Plunkett, adjutant of the Force and chairman of the Dartmoor Building Society. 'And, as I appointed', he commented afterwards.

"Detective Sergeant Toddlax, who was in charge of the operation then confined the ringleaders, namely Mr Ludgate and the two Lady Baskervilles, in the village pound with the order that they were to remain there without fire, food or water until they had reached a verdict. After a mere ten minutes they emerged with an agreed compromise—a referendum of the whole village is to be held to decide whether or not the Mire or any interest in it should be sold. If so, six members of a committee are to be elected who, together with the three of them ex officio, will decide the basis of sale. 'I was amazed', commented Detective Sergeant Toddlax afterwards.

(Next instalment—The Demonic Process)

Francis Kinsman

Investor's week

City clutches at three straws

In the stock market a week is a short time, but long enough for City folk to clutch at a future, which, however grey in the outcome, looks more inviting than the present.

Three little things happened to persuade sensible men that the Government was at last taming inflation and that shares, as measured by the FT index, would not sink below 380. This week, anyway, the FT index rose just over 5 per cent from 413.9 to 435.2.

Who can tell? All we can say is that the evidence is not entirely convincing. First the City discovered that a steel strike could do us good. There is, after all, a world surplus of steel which is wasteful and costly to stockpile. A strike is a quick and sure way of slimming this surplus.

Indeed, for a few weeks industry seems to be better off. Steel stocks turn into cash which is what a lot of companies need most. If, then, the strike ends quickly, no harm is done.

Line trouble starts if the strike drags on for a month or more. Either businessmen import dear foreign steel which will feed back into industry's production costs; or unions stop it coming in and industry is down for want of raw material.

Secondly, the City liked Sir Keith Joseph's determination to keep out of the steel dispute

(without recognizing that, as British Steel's paymaster, he must intervene at some stage to settle it); and it welcomed the way money supply and bank lending grew more slowly in the three weeks to mid-December.

The snags are that the December "banking month" was only three weeks; that the authorities sold more than £1,500m of gilt-edged stock to people outside banks, so the money supply should not have grown at all; and that tax revenues this month are coming in only slowly, so that the public sector is still borrowing too much

money and leaving too little for the private sector.

Third, institutions are still scared of being trapped in idle cash at a time when shares may be shooting up. The most sensibly liquid of them in 1974-5 were caught out by the vertical share climb in the FT index from 146 to 300 in six weeks and they are scared of being caught again. In thin markets, it could happen. So they bought a few shares, just in case.

In this feeble atmosphere men in brokers' backrooms who do nothing in particular and their best in general went to work. Old bid stories (and some new ones) were run-

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK				
Rises				
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
455p	320p	Ferranti	48p to 455p	Armaments hopes
255p	149p	Jones (Ernest)	23p to 255p	Jewelry demand
145p	83p	McCorquodale	20p to 145p	Good annual figs
198p	117p	Waddington	15p to 198p	Recovery hopes
70p	31p	Westland	15p to 70p	Turnround from loss to profit
Falls				
406p	221p	BP	10p to 330p	Oil glut fears
11	6 15/16	De Beers	\$2 to \$3	Diamond sales fall
145p	43p	Melody Mills	14p to 43p	Poor results
395p	195p	Middle Wits	25p to 395p	Profit taking
283p	142p	Tncantrol	3p to 250p	Profit taking

died out. Some no doubt will come back. Thus, Decca were active on talk of a bid from Rascal; Silkstone jumped on gossip of an approach from Croda; Grafton in mail order were said to be on someone's shopping list; and hopefully suggested GUS as a bidder for Stead & Simpson.

Actual bids came in for two investment trusts, Carlisle and Tyneside and for Tyndall unit trust group West of England.

The AF's wars were good for any group connected with armaments. Hopes of heavier defence spending helped up Ferranti as it did Vickers, and for that matter Associated Engineering.

Nor has the stream of good news from companies with September year-ends come to a stop. It was cheer all the way from Westland, McCord, Bole, and Esperanza, but for Thorn the rise in the shares was all over before it could report confidently late on Friday.

So the week closed as its best and the buying that developed for gilts was enough to mop up both existing top stocks. Treasury 14 per cent 1998-2001 and the Exchequer 14 per cent 1984. Next week, however, could well bring a new tap or two, when the authorities' interest rate strategy will become clearer.

Peter Wainwright

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Tax worry of a house painter

Some years ago a young man was recommended to us to do some painting in his spare time. He did the work so conscientiously, that we proceeded to recommend him to neighbours and eventually he did so well that he set up in business on his own as a house painter, taking on employees. Unfortunately, he lacks the skill to cope with the paper work generated by his business and recently confided to my husband that he is completely out of his depth, and is very worried about his tax position. He desperately needs professional help to straighten out his affairs, but is worried that if he goes to a firm of accountants, they may be under an obligation to report him to the Inland Revenue. Can you explain briefly the professional duty of an accountant if he discovers that his client has been guilty of tax discrepancies? (R.M., Birmingham)

You will be doing the young man a service, if you select a competent local accountant and persuade him to make an appointment. Even if there are serious tax discrepancies and the accountant discovers these, he can continue to act for him, provided that he does not thereby become "an accomplice" by assisting in concealing them.

Accountants are not permitted to divulge information gained as a result of advising or acting for a client. However, if the client is guilty of irregularities, they will advise him how best to approach the Revenue, by way of disclosure and admission, so as to minimize any penalty.

My wife and I let some students rooms of our home to students and last year had a gross income of about £7000, against expenses of £500. The expenses include by agreement with the Inland Revenue an allowance for rates, heating, lighting and insurance of 25 per cent of my total expenditure on those items, as calculated by the total proportion of rooms in the house that the students use. A colleague at work now tells me that that same proportion, 25 per cent, will apply as a taxable part of any capital gain when I sell my house.

With one exception, when the main residence is partly let, the capital gains tax exemption is restricted. The extent of the restriction will depend on two things—how much of the house has been let and for what length of time it has been let. For example, a house (acquired after April 5, 1965) is sold after 10 years of ownership. For five of those years one quarter of the accommodation is let. If the overall gain for the 10 years is £20,000 then one quarter of £20,000, or £5,000, is taxable—that is, £2,500—and the balance of £17,500 is exempt.

The exception concerns lodgers living with the family. In November, 1975, the Inland Revenue issued a press release which states that "where a lodger lives as a member of the owner's family, sharing their living accommodation and taking meals with them, no part of the accommodation is treated as having ceased to be occupied as the owner's main residence and the exemption will not be restricted at all."

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Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of John Drummond, Vera Di Palma, Ronald Irving and Eric Brunet.

In any case, a survey is always carried out by the building society. If their surveyor passes the property as sound, is the purchaser not entitled to assume that there are no serious defects? (M.F.O., Ealing)

Where the National House-Building Council 10-year insurance cover has expired a prospective buyer is wise to employ a qualified surveyor. Although a full survey is likely to be expensive, many surveyors will carry out a limited survey at a modest fee. If the surveyor overlooks a defect, his insurance company will be responsible for the cost of putting it right.

In law, the building society surveyor owes no legal responsibility to the borrower and in fact the society never passes a copy of this report to him, even though he is obliged to pay the surveyor's fee. The survey report is for the benefit of the building society and is merely a valuation to ensure that if the house has to be sold, the society will get back the amount of its loan.

I am a pensioned doctor, aged 76 and I have a wife aged 42. I remarried after a widow's pension but this was applicable only to my wife who died. So my problem is to provide for my wife. I assume that taking out a life policy at my age would not be feasible. Would there be some advantage in taking out a policy for my wife—an endowment policy, say, to mature at the age of 55? Incidentally, we have been married eight years. (G.B., Leeds)

You are, of course, quite right in thinking that it would be expensive, at this stage to arrange a whole life policy on your life. As you appreciate, it would be cheaper to arrange a policy on the life of your wife (because of her younger age). If, however, you were to die before completing the payments, would she be able to afford to keep up the premiums? They would not cease to be payable at your death.

Perhaps your best plan would be to try to organize your capital to best advantage, bearing in mind that assets can pass by will at your death to your wife free from capital transfer tax. As one example, do you have the index-linked retirement issue of National Savings certificates? Remember, also, that no capital gains tax is payable on assets passing at death.

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Stock markets

Equities firm but gilts hold stage

Gilts continued to hold the spotlight in the market yesterday, helping to end the account on a firm note.

Equities also made further progress mainly on the back of Government securities and "bear closing" rather than any real buyers creeping in.

Dealers reported active trading first thing as buyers still proved anxious to move into gilts following the announcement on Thursday that the long term Treasury bill at 10 per cent 1998-2001, had been exhausted. Attention then switched to the new short "tap" Exchequer 14 per cent 1984, which opened at 296.50 and rose to 297.1 before closing with a net gain of 0.5. Indeed buyers proved so keen not to get left out and the Government broker announced at 10 am that the stock had been exhausted. Jobbers were still refusing last night to commit themselves on whether a new stock would be announced next week, although most remained quietly confident.

Rises at the longer end of the market extended to about 22 and with little evidence of profit taking most finished at their best levels. But after a rather fluctuating performance shorts saw net fall on the day of about 0.5.

This whole affair seemed to prove too much for equities which seem confused. After a firm start which saw most shares score gains activity began to trail off around lunch time. They then continued to drift for most of the afternoon only to sparkle again in after hours with the FT index powering on from being 0.3 up at 3.30 to close at 4.4 and up 0.1. This meant a rise on the week of 21.3 or 5.1 per cent.

The unsettled behaviour of equities was best reflected in blue chips where earlier rises were helped away to finish unchanged as in the case of ICI at 367p. However, Unilever up 10p to 472p and Glaxo 3p better.

Now that takeover talk has subsided, hopes of sharply higher profits in the year to next are fading. Lending support to Consolidated Gold Fields with the shares up 15p to 435p yesterday. With the gold price now over \$600, analysts are projecting at least a 50 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to perhaps £150m especially as Amey's quarries business is also doing better than feared.

at 462p both continued to make progress as did BAT's at 261p and Pilkington Bros at 213p both with gains of 8p. Hawker Siddeley improved 4p to 190p and Fisons was up 3p to 224p. Interest figures from Associated Newspapers boosted the share price 16p to 285p and Daily Mail Trust, also report-

ing, climbed 27p to 478p. Sidlaw with full year figures rose 4p to 80p.

Further consideration of recent figures from Satchey Parke Bernet provided a rise of 15p to 400p while a broker's circular strengthened BTR 10p to 302p.

Shares of Elack & Decker made their debut on the London market yesterday with the shares at 510.

Friedland Dessart was a firm spot rising 15p to 126p while news that H. M. Moss had taken a 5 per cent stake lifted Strand Riley 5p to 41p. De La Rue continued to make ground following recent comment improving 20p to 600p.

Equity turnover on January 10, was £101.76m (14,537 bar-gains). Active stocks, yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were, Marks & Spencer, Lasso, Vickers, Hanson Trust, Dalgety, Distillers, ICI, Grand Metropolitan Hotels, Shell, First National Finance Corporation, R. T. Z. Plessey, United Dominions Trust and North Kalguri Mines.

Latest results

Company	Profit	Earnings	Div	Div	Div	Year's
£m	£m	per share	pence	pence	pence	total
Associated Newspapers	0.26(0.42)	0.66(0.94)	0.25(0.34)	14/3	—	(0.78)
Assoc. News (F)	0.15(0.21)	0.40(0.55)	0.15(0.21)	22/3	12/3	(0.75)
Assoc. News (F)	0.11(0.13)	0.31(0.37)	0.11(0.13)	7/3	3/2(2.4)	—
Heron Motor (F)	0.58(0.67)	1.01(1.1)	0.58(0.67)	—	—	(2.82)
R. H. Lowe (F)	0.42(0.49)	0.79(0.92)	0.42(0.49)	1/4	2/1(2.17)	—
R. H. Lowe (F)	0.43(0.53)	0.80(0.95)	0.43(0.53)	1/4	2/1(2.17)	—
Thorn Elect (F)	0.55(0.51)	0.87(0.81)	0.55(0.51)	6/2	—	(1.6)
Thorn Elect (F)	0.55(0.51)	0.87(0.81)	0.55(0.51)	6/2	—	(1.6)
Sidlaw Inds (F)	0.17(0.18)	0.22(0.23)	0.17(0.18)	29/3	—	(1.5)
Piccadilly Theatre (F)	0.05(0.06)	0.07(0.08)	0.05(0.06)	17/3	6/2(6.72)	—
Vita-Tex (F)	0.18(0.15)	0.24(0.20)	0.18(0.15)	28/2	1/4(1.78)	—
Vita-Tex (F)	0.18(0.15)	0.24(0.20)	0.18(0.15)	28/2	1/4(1.78)	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross dividend per share, divide by 1.42. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=adjusted for scrip issue, b=loss, c=for 18 months period, d=for nine months.

Assoc Newspapers tops £39m

By Michael Frost

Associated Newspapers pre-tax profits were £39.9m for the 18 months to the end of September. Results for the Daily Mail and General Trust, which controls 49 per cent of Associated, show profits of £11.7m.

Comparisons with previous years are confused by the change in accounting period from a March year-end to a September year-end. The last annual figures were £15.5m and £4.3m respectively.

The fortunes of Associated Newspapers, which apart from the Daily Mail and London Evening News, has interests in North Sea oil, restaurants, transport and property, are further complicated by the fact that some of the principal

trading subsidiaries extended their financial years to 21 months to bring them into line. The effect of this is to increase turnover by £21.2m and earnings from trading by £4m in respect of the three months to March 31. For the 18 months to September 30 group turnover was £232.9m and trading earnings were £28.7m.

City sources estimated profits for the last 12 months at about £26m. This represents a significant increase over the previous 12 months accounting period. The important contribution was Blackfriars Oil which sold 123 per cent of each of two North Sea blocks in the Argyle field.

Associated's board declared a final dividend of 8.5p gross on earnings per share of all the group's companies over their

different periods of 63.4p. Dividends from Associated Newspapers in the Daily Mail Trust results came to £1.89m.

The Trust's final dividend amounts to 22.5p gross making a total of 43p for the period or 18.4p for the twelve months. Earnings per share rose from 17.9p to 35.1p.

The valuation of investments in the Trust came to £68.8m against £46.6m giving a value of 68p per share against 46p. AN is now an associated company and the proportion of profits attributable to the company's interest in AN for the 18 months after extraordinary items and minorities, is included in the figures and comparisons have been restated.

Yesterday AN shares rose 16p to 285p and the trust shares rose 27p to 478p.

Millford board changes rejected

Millford Docks shareholders threw out proposals to change board membership put forward by a dissident group of shareholders who claimed to represent 27 per cent of Millford's shares at an EGM yesterday.

Nearly 700 shareholders voted against Scanlon's recommendations which included the replacement of two existing board members as part of a plan to improve the company's return on capital.

Mr Charles Smith, chairman, said after the meeting that it was encouraging that the shareholders had so convincingly demonstrated their confidence in the board's handling of the company's affairs. "The figures show that fewer than 30 individuals added their votes to those lodged by Scanlon in requisitioning the meeting."

Optimism at Thorn despite strike loss

By Alison Mitchell

The effect of the engineering strike, which is thought to have cost Thorn Electrical Industries around £3m, left first half profits slightly down on last time.

However, a confident statement accompanying the interim figures helped to support the share price which ended the day 2p higher at 296p.

In the six months to September 30, 1979, the last accounting period before the inclusion of results from recently taken-over EMI, pretax profits dipped from £51.3m to £51.3m. Turnover in the period rose six per cent to £617m with the entire increase coming from the home market.

The shortfall in the first half resulted from the engineering strike and the strength of the pound which damaged the export prospects of the lighting division. Overseas turnover, which includes exports, was down on the same period last year. However, the directors report that the overall decrease in profits has already been made up and provided the final quarter is not affected by strikes Thorn ought to beat last year's annual profit figure of £118m.

Margins on colour televisions, which have always been a problem, are continuing to be almost non-existent. But as the smaller end of the range the introduction of a new chassis and the subsequent reduction in the labour force has reduced costs and widened margins. The group anticipates expanding this new production process into the larger sets in the current year.

Although finance charges



Sir Richard Cave, chairman of Thorn Electrical Industries.

are down in the first half, the results of takeovers in the second six months has increased Thorn's borrowings dramatically. Excluding the EMI merger, Thorn spent £60m on other companies. Taking in the cash spent on the EMI bid and EMI's borrowings, Thorn's total borrowings are now standing at around £300m which increases the group's gearing to around 50 per cent of shareholders' funds.

The interim dividend has been raised by 12 per cent to 5.8p gross. A similar increase at the year end to a total of 21p would give the shares, at 296p, a yield of 7.1 per cent.

The terms for the EMI 81 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1981 are 15.87, ordinary shares and 32.67 7 per cent convertible redeemable shares 1992/1999 of Thorn for every £100 nominal of EMI convertible.

been raised by 12 per cent to 5.8p gross. A similar increase at the year end to a total of 21p would give the shares, at 296p, a yield of 7.1 per cent.

In the current year the prospects for the oil services division—which marked time last year with a trading profit of £1m—and the hotels subsidiary Skeen Dhu are excellent. The hardware business P. & R. Fleming has been sold off and the terminal costs amounted to around £250,000, taken as an extraordinary item below the line.

For shareholders there is a reduced final dividend of 7.4p gross giving a same again total.

HERON MOTOR GROUP

Profits of the Heron Motor Group for the six months to September 30, 1979, fell by 42 per cent. Pre-tax profits were down from £1.8m to £1.05m on turnover marginally down at £65.82m against £66.75m.

Chairman Mr Peter Reynolds said the company has lost a significant deterioration in trading conditions during the second quarter covering July, August and September. Sales were maintained only at the expense of reduced margins. A number of provincial branches are being closed down because they are not producing an acceptable return on investment, the board said.

Mr Reynolds said that, with the pressure on margins increasing, year and profit are likely to be considerably less than the 1979 £3.5m.

BURGE AND CO

The London firm of stockbrokers Burge and Co is to cease trading after 114 years. Rising costs are given as the principal reason for closing. During the last two years the firm has been subject to one of the longest Stock Exchange inquiries.

MINORCO

Anglo American and De Beers have sold shares in Minorco they acquired through the reorganization last year of Charter Consolidated. The shares were placed at 86.10, or the sterling equivalent through stockbrokers, Rowe and Pitman and Wood Gundy, a Canadian firm. At the time of the reorganization last October, Anglo and De Beers warned that they would sell their Minorco shares to widen the ownership of the Ber-

D. C. THOMSON

Trading profit for year to March 31, 1979, up from £2.1m to £5.43m. Investment income, £3.25m (£2.76m). Income after tax, £3.94m (£2.72m). Total gross dividend, 32.14p (£28.47p).

BRUNNER TRUST

Brunner Investment Trust is to make a one-for-one scrip issue.

SWILIGHT SERVICES

Swilight Service has bought the Hoen hire group of Hubert Parker (Interests) and three of

its subsidiaries for £502,000 payable in cash and £440,000 to be paid on completion—balance being deferred for one year.

VITA-TEX

Turnover for six months to October 31, £5.97m (£4.04m). Pre-tax profit more than doubled to £757,000 against £351,000. In context of offer from British Vita-board does not intend to pay an interim dividend (against 2.38p gross). First-half results should not be taken as indication of full-year's outcome.

LEY'S FOUNDRIES

Turnover for year to September 30 up from £12.5m to £12.5m. Pre-tax loss of £160,000, against profit of £1.18m. Tax credit of £747,000, against charge of £511,000. Total dividend, gross, 6.14p, against 6.41p.

OWEN & ROBINSON

Turnover for half-year to November 30 up from £517,000 to £554,000. Pre-tax profit, £11,000 (£12,000).

MCCADILLY THEATRE

Turnover for nine months to September 30, £188,000 (£157,000 for year). Pre-tax profit, £131,000 (£77,000). Dividend, 2.14p gross (£2.54p).

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Stock exchange proposals for more relaxed regulation of an unlisted securities market is attracting widespread interest said SE chairman, Mr Nicholas Goodson. There has been an increasing response from outside the financial institutions including accountants, solicitors and other professional advisers, as well as from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, added Mr Goodson.

Aran acquires Irish Oil

Aran Energy has acquired Estuary Fuel, an Irish oil importation and distribution company based on the Shannon Estuary. Some recent reports have suggested that the Aran-Estuary development may be part of a wider scheme involving Aran, Estuary and national Co-operative interests.

The board says that, while it is true that discussion between Aran and Co-operative organizations have taken place, the Aran-Estuary merger is separate from and independent of any such reported arrangements.

slower performance in 1980. Despite a "good quarter" in the final period of 1979 they fully expect lower earnings in 1980.

Dutch paper group

Koninklijke Nederlandse Papierfabriek (KNP), one of western Europe's largest white paper manufacturers, said its operating profit last year was slightly lower than the 13.8m florins reported in 1978.

International

The board gave no estimate of its net profit for the year just concluded. In 1978 the company closed with a 4m florin loss.

Group turnover rose about 15 per cent last year to about 945m florins. Despite this increase, operating income fell back as increases in raw material and energy costs could only be partially passed through into product prices.

Du Pont Canada

Du Pont Canada, which enjoyed a "vintage year" in 1979, expects to report earnings for the period "well in excess of \$6 a share" and a 30 per cent climb in sales to about \$675m.

Mr J. Edward Newall, chairman, president, and chief executive officer, said.

However, Mr Newall and Mr Donald Trison, vice-president and chief financial officer, noted a "plateau" in fourth-quarter sales and earnings indicating



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*Source: Financial Times Magazine

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Rise of 12pc worldwide at Colonial Mutual

Last year new sums assured on a worldwide basis by the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society of Australia expanded by 12 per cent to £1.852m. In the United Kingdom, Colonial's life assurance business produced new premiums of £5.5m, a rise of 25 per cent on 1978. Included in this are single premiums of £202,000—more than double 1978's £85,000.

New sums assured rose by 39 per cent to £936m, while new annuities per annum grew by

New Life Business

two per cent to £1.47m. As far as United Kingdom pensions business is concerned, new premiums fell by 15 per cent to £4.42m. Included in this are single premiums of £3,02m, which is a rise of 39 per cent. These figures follow a rise of 165 per cent in premium income in 1978 over 1977.

IMPERIAL LIFE

Following a 29 per cent rise in new annual premium life business and a 44 per cent increase in unit-linked life business premiums in the United Kingdom in 1978, the Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada has had another successful year in 1979. New annual premium business has risen to £5.27m, against £4.6m in 1978.

PROVIDENT MUTUAL

After producing an outstanding growth of 60 per cent in new annual premiums in 1978, Provident Mutual Life has continued to expand its new business in all main sectors in 1979. Aggregate new annual premiums of £25.0m are reported for 1979, an increase of 161 per cent.

Wall Street

New York, Jan 11.—Stock prices ended mixed on Friday in trading that slowed markedly from Thursday's pace during the afternoon.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 0.43 to 833.53. It had been off five points in the afternoon and up nearly that much in the morning.

New York stock exchange volume was a healthy 52,890,000 shares, down from 55,980,000 on Thursday.

Analysts feel the market has been acting well recently and the downturn, while partially because of the approach of the weekend "could also show the market had gone ahead of itself," one analyst said.

Despite the heavy trading recently and the large blocks, some dealers say the pent-up buying power of the institutions still has not been satisfied.

But the hard acting inflation and recession is still far from being won, says Mr. Fred Kalkstein, of Etkins, Stroud Supple & Co. He adds that there is no international scene will inflate the budget deficit, and the deteriorating geopolitical situation will have a negative effect on the bond market, making it more difficult for the Administration to soften a recession by cutting taxes.

Because of transmission difficulties not all closing prices were available.

COPPER—COMEX

March 1980, 100 lbs. 100.00; May 1980, 100 lbs. 100.00; July 1980, 100 lbs. 100.00; Sept 1980, 100 lbs. 100.00; Dec 1980, 100 lbs. 100.00; Mar 1981, 100 lbs. 100.00; May 1981, 100 lbs. 100.00; July 1981, 100 lbs. 100.00; Sept 1981, 100 lbs. 100.00; Dec 1981, 100 lbs. 100.00; Mar 1982, 100 lbs. 100.00; May 1982, 100 lbs. 100.00; July 1982, 100 lbs. 100.00; Sept 1982, 100 lbs. 100.00; Dec 1982, 100 lbs. 100.00; Mar 1983, 100 lbs. 100.00; May 1983, 100 lbs. 100.00; July 1983, 100 lbs. 100.00; Sept 1983, 100 lbs. 100.00; Dec 1983, 100 lbs. 100.00; Mar 1984, 100 lbs. 100.00; May 1984, 100 lbs. 100.00; July 1984, 100 lbs. 100.00; Sept 1984, 100 lbs. 100.00; Dec 1984, 100 lbs. 100.00; Mar 1985, 100 lbs. 100.00; May 1985, 100 lbs. 100.00; July 1985, 100 lbs. 100.00; Sept 1985, 100 lbs. 100.00; Dec 1985, 100 lbs. 100.00; Mar 1986, 100 lbs. 100.00; May 1986, 100 lbs. 100.00; July 1986, 100 lbs. 100.00; Sept 1986, 100 lbs. 100.00; Dec 1986, 100 lbs. 100.00; Mar 1987, 100 lbs. 100.00; May 1987, 100 lbs. 100.00; 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